EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

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UK SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR STATIONARY REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMP USERS

A Supplementary Guidance document to the F-Gas Regulation, additional to the first official Guidance document has been developed by UK Official Bodies DEFRA and DTI in order to assist people running or maintaining HFC containing equipment for Stationary Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat Pumps.

This Guidance is intended to help them to identify refrigerants affected by the new Regulation, identify how much refrigerant they have in a system (since this quantity affects the way the Regulation will apply), and provide an explanation of the actions they need to take to comply and the dates when the new rules come into force.

Although some aspects of the Regulation are still under discussion by the EU F-Gas Regulatory Committee, obligations in the new Regulation which will apply from July 4th 2007 are the following:

There are 6 main obligations that will affect operators of refrigeration equipment. They are summarized in the following table.

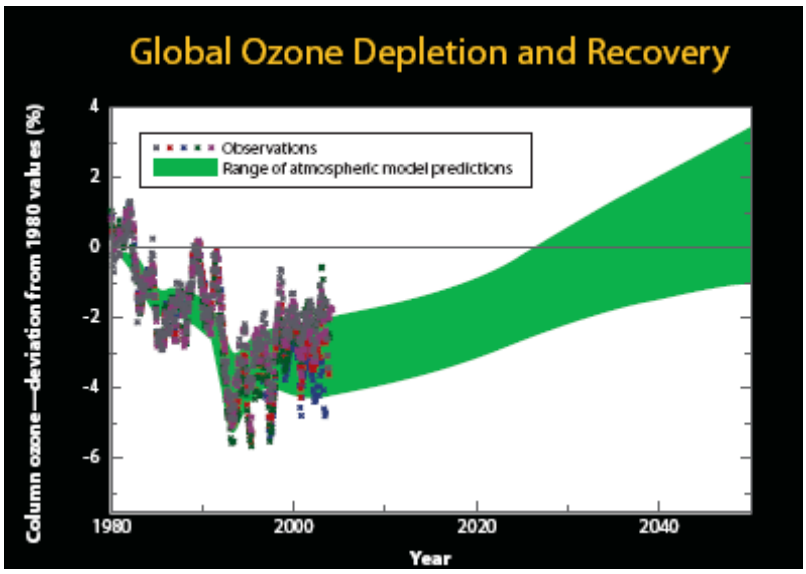
Recover F gases during plant servicing and maintenance and at end of plant life. After recovery the refrigerant can be reused or sent for reclamation or destruction.	All stationary systems
Use adequately trained staff to carry out installation, servicing and maintenance and leakage checking (minimum requirements still under discussion by the EU Regulatory Committee)	All stationary systems
Clearly label new equipment shall be, stating the type and quantity of HFC refrigerant used.	All stationary systems
Prevent leakage using all measures which are technically feasible and do not entail disproportionate cost. Repair detected leakage as soon as possible	All stationary systems
Regularly check for leakage systems above	Stationary systems above 3kg

3kg or 6kg and keep records about refrigeration plant that uses F gases	
Fit automatic leak detection system	Stationary systems above 300kg

US EPA REPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS IN OZONE LAYER PROTECTION

Preparing for the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, an US EPA Report "Achievements in Stratospheric Ozone Protection" highlights the role of people, programmes, and organizations that have helped to make the Montreal Protocol a success.

It states that "the ozone layer has not grown thinner since 1998 over most of the world, and it appears to be recovering because of reduced emissions of ozone-depleting substances. Antarctic ozone is projected to return to pre- 1980 levels by 2060 to 2075."



Source: IPPC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and TEAP (Technology and Economic Assessment Panel) - Special Report on "Safeguarding the ozone layer and the global climate system."

It emphasizes how phasing out ODS (ozone-depleting substances) has also brought climate benefits,

- firstly because ODS are also greenhouse gases,

- secondly because upgraded equipment using ODS substitutes are often less likely to leak (reducing direct emissions) and more energy efficient (reducing greenhouse gases emissions associated with power production).

The Report stresses the Technology Revolution that was driven by the Protocol, associating private and public leaders to develop and test new products and technologies, which had been needed to break down an impressive number of technical, institutional, and financial barriers. It acknowledges the role of corporate leadership, which has played a key role in the negotiation of the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedules, and has thereby allowed phase-out targets to be more easily achieved.

Looking ahead, the Report mentions, besides the need to complete the phase-out of ODS, the interest of flexible approaches, and the development of "products, technologies, and initiatives that reap co-benefits in climate change and energy efficiency".

MOBILE AIR CONDITIONING ACHIEVEMENTS RECEIVE US EPA AWARDS FOR CLIMATE AND OZONE PROTECTION

Several Climate Protection and Ozone Protection Awards were given to organizations and companies which significantly contributed to reduce Mobile Air Conditioning emissions and to improve its energy efficiency.

The Improved Mobile Air Conditioning (I-MAC) program has been organized to promote cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, by reducing direct system refrigerant leakage by 50%; improving system efficiency by 30%; reducing system loads by 30% and reducing service refrigerant losses by 50%.

- The I-MAC "Servicing Emissions Reduction Team" was rewarded for having set up a new standard (SAE J-2788) for refrigerant recovery/recharge equipment, tested with real-world conditions and which improves dramatically refrigerant recovery rates by requiring the recovery of 95% of the refrigerant charge.

  New test standards were also developed that make leak detectors able to identify much smaller leaks, reducing emissions and increasing the reliability of repairs.

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- An award was granted to the first refrigerant recovery/recharge equipment to meet SAE standard J-2788, while previous methods allowed as much as 30% of the refrigerant to escape to the atmosphere.

- A high-efficiency air conditioning was rewarded for reducing the power consumption by 39% and improving cooling performance by 7%.

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