



# EFCTC NEWSLETTER

## An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

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### EU COMMON POSITION ON THE PROPOSED F-GASES REGULATION

Following the Council political agreement on the proposed F-gases regulation of last October, the EU Common Position has just been released. It is composed of 2 different texts:

- A [regulation](#) (immediately applicable) for “all” other applications, like refrigeration and air conditioning, semiconductors, fire fighting agents, aerosols, etc, will improve and ensure F-gases containment by setting minimum standards, monitoring emissions and certification of qualified personnel.
  - Use in some applications will be restricted where containment is deemed inappropriate, for example, fluorinated gases in double glazing, car tyres, recreational items, as well as PFCs in new fire protection systems and fire extinguishers.
  - The legal base should be both Article 95 of the EU Treaty (Internal Market) for use controls - in order to ensure market consistency and Article 175 (Environment) on the containment aspects.
- A [directive](#) (to be transposed in national regulations) to phase out HFC-134a from vehicle air conditioning as of 2011 for new models, as of 2017 for all new cars. Due to the GWP limit of 150 set for MAC refrigerants, the moderately flammable HFC 152a could be used to replace HFC 134a. Limit leakage rates have been set. The legal base should be Article 95 of the EU Treaty (Internal Market).

Reiterating the views from its previous Press Release, [EFCTC](#) considers that:

- regarding the regulation, the Common Position solves the difficult issues of legal base and of the list use restrictions
- but regarding the directive, remains concerned that it will phase out the use of HFC-134a in mobile air-conditioning systems, when alternatives are still in the development phase and no mass-produced commercial system, that provides demonstrable economic, safety and environmental benefits is yet available.



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### HFCs IN HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE IN LONDON (UK)

Her Majesty's theatre, the fourth to stand on the Haymarket site since 1704, was built in 1897 and regained the popularity of earlier days, being noted in the survey of London as "one of the best planned theatres in London".

With the need to provide the pleasant internal environment demanded by modern audiences, comfort cooling was recently completely renovated. A state of the art new chiller running on [R407C](#)<sup>(1)</sup> has been installed, with a capacity of 205 kW. It was delivered to site, craned to rooftop level, installed, commissioned and up and running in time for the next performance within 3 days

(1) a blend of HFC-32, HFC-125 and HFC-134a (23/25/52)

### XPS FOAM CO<sub>2</sub> SAVINGS

A [Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent Emissions From the Use of Various XPS](#) (Extruded Polystyrene Foam) Insulations was carried out for different foam blowing agents for different locations in the USA.

The conclusion of the [LCA](#) was that, within the expected accuracy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions additionally generated by the insulation foam products are small compared to those created by the heating and cooling of the house over a 50 year period of the LCA data.

Given the significant energy (and other associated emissions) savings and the comparably non significant differences between LCA total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, there is no reason to prefer one or the other blowing agent, especially [considering](#) that "*HFCs provide the best sustainable compromise between safety, flammability, insulation efficiency, environmental impact and economic performance.*" (page 8)

### NEW ON OUR SITE

Update of the [Regulatory Page](#) with the EU Common Position on F-Gases

[Links to the Common Position Texts in different Languages](#)

Useful Official EU Web pages on the issue

- Legislation in preparation - [The decision-making process](#)
- [Legislative Observatory \(summary of the different steps\)](#)