



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

ISSUE 29 - November 2005

SECOND READING OF THE F-GAS REGULATION : EFCTC WELCOMES A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE REDUCTION OF FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

EFCTC is pleased that the EU Parliament Second Reading Report, adopted on 26 October 2005, has given support for the [Council Common Position](#), a step in the right direction to strengthen actions to protect the climate and the environment.

By focusing on [containment, monitoring and controlling emission](#) of HFCs the Parliament has enabled the continued use of HFCs in essential applications including refrigeration, air conditioning and thermal insulation to contribute to an improvement in Climate change.

EFCTC also recognises the value of a Regulation based both on Art 95 for measures regarding single market aspects and on Art 175 for measures related to environmental protection. Such an approach provides a firm basis to ensure the Regulation will be in line with global objectives.

See also the [First Reading amendments](#), adopted on 31 March 2004 by the European Parliament, [EFCTC PR on the First Reading](#) and [EFCTC Press Release](#) on 26 October 2005.

HFCs IN SUBMARINE SERVICE

HFC based [water chillers](#) were and are used in submarines in the Royal Navy fleet, ranging in capacities from 200 to 700kW. All equipment must be built to the most stringent specifications, particularly with regard to minimizing noise and vibration emissions, thereby maintaining stealth and minimizing the possibility of detection. Recently older plants have been retrofitted to replace previously used CFCs.

The UK Royal Navy Submarine Fleet consists of Ship Submersible Nuclear and Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear. These vessels stay at sea for months at a time, remaining submerged and undetected whilst on patrol.

Both classes of submarine are crewed by an excess of 120 men. Maintaining a habitable working environment for the crew when there is no natural air, and surrounding temperatures reach extremes, presents a unique challenge for those controlling the atmosphere.



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Source: Equipment manufacturer



HFCs NEEDED FOR POLYURETHANE FOAM INSULATION

In a recent Press Release, a Polyurethane Foam Industry Association reasserts the need for using [HFCs as blowing agents](#) :

- where demanded by process [safety considerations](#), such as in spray foams
- where it is unsafe to use a flammable blowing agent
- where high fire performance of the foam is required and cannot be obtained with hydrocarbons
- since SMEs cannot afford to convert their factories to use flammable blowing agents for the production of sandwich panels.

In addition, spray foams are the only insulation solution for many Southern European countries, like Spain, where they are largely used for refurbishing existing buildings which would otherwise use much more energy, giving increased CO₂ emissions

ISOPA also recalls that the [energy savings from HFC blowing agents](#) reduces carbon dioxide emissions far in excess of the tiny climate impact from their emissions, which represents thus a clear benefit to the environment.

Source : [ISOPA Press Release](#) (posted on the [Euractiv review](#)) and [ISOPA Article](#)



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REFRIGERATION SAFETY STANDARD PROHIBITS FLAMMABLES FOR HUMAN COMFORT

The 2004 Edition of ANSI/ASHRAE 15-2004, *Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems* includes prohibitions against the [use of A3 flammable refrigerants](#) for applications for human comfort cooling applications, while the [Safety Classification of Refrigerants](#) assigns category A3 to Hydrocarbons refrigerants.

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15-2004 establishes procedures for operating equipment and systems to assure the safety of building occupants and system technicians, specifying safe design, construction, installation, and operation of refrigeration systems.

[Details on the Standard changes](#) to the 2001 Edition

Source: [ASHRAE](#)

NEW ON OUR SITE

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[Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System](#)

Summary for Policymakers and Technical Summary in English, French and Spanish.

PRESS ROOM

EFCTC PR – [EFCTC PR - "EP vote on the F-gas Regulation: a positive step towards the reduction of fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions."](#)