



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

ISSUE 18 - November 2004

POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSED F-GAS REGULATION

EU environment ministers meeting in Luxembourg on 14 October have reached [political agreement](#) on a Draft proposal on F-gases emissions reduction.

The final EU Council proposal will only be known when its Common Position will be released (early 2005 probably). It is however already possible to draw the main lines of the agreed compromise. Practically, there will be two separate 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 tires, 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)

EFCTC has published a [Press Release](#) welcoming the Political Agreement, its content and dual Legal Base, but is concerned by the phase-out 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"*.

USE OF HFCS IN THE NEW MET OFFICE HEADQUARTERS

An HFC refrigerant is used in Britain's most prestigious weather centre, the new Met Office headquarters at Exeter. Their supercomputers, used also to run long-range climate change models, generate a tremendous amount of heat. To keep them cool, HFC R-134a is used in the refrigeration plants.

To unsubscribe: vno@cefic.be

For further information about EFCTC: Valentina Bertato: vbe@cefic.be

Cefic/EFCTC – Avenue E Van Nieuwenhuyse 4, Box 2 – 1160 Brussels

Tel : 32 2 676 72 40 – Fax : 32 2 676 72 41



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

At the time of construction, this was the most cost-efficient, safest and effective method of cooling such an area and if the coolant is disposed of correctly in the future when the building is dismantled, will not add to the global warming problem.

Source: <http://www.metoffice.com/corporate/pressoffice/2004/pr20040927.html>

THE GREAT LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA (Egypt)

The prestigious GREAT LIBRARY Of ALEXANDRIA (Egypt), reborn nearly 2300 years after its first construction, was planned by the Norwegian architects firm [Snøhetta](#).

The library has a surface of 80 000 m², including the world largest 20 000 m² reading room able to accommodate 3 000 readers. The Library is equipped with an advanced system of air conditioning based on HFC 134a. The absorbed power can reach 2 100 kW, and can deliver 12 300 kW of refrigeration.

Beyond assuring the most favorable conditions to the preservation of antic and rare books, air conditioning, with an absorbed power of around 8000 kW, will guarantee visitors the necessary comfort for the consultation of an estimated cultural patrimony of approximately 8 million volumes.

Source: supplier information

SALES OF AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT IN 2003

China: domestic sales and exports of air-conditioners: 34 million units (60 % of the world market for air-conditioners). Export represented 15 million units (8 million in 2002)

USA: central air-conditioners and air-source heat pumps: 6.8 million units
Total number of heat pumps: 1.6 million units (10 % more than in 2002)

Japan: room air-conditioners 6.8 million units (down by 1.9 % from last year)

Source: http://www.heatpumpcentre.org/Home/Newsletter_N22.01.pdf (page 9)

To unsubscribe: vno@cefic.be

For further information about EFCTC: Valentina Bertato: vbe@cefic.be

Cefic/EFCTC – Avenue E Van Nieuwenhuyse 4, Box 2 – 1160 Brussels

Tel : 32 2 676 72 40 – Fax : 32 2 676 72 41



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

NEW ON OUR SITE

WHERE ARE HFCs USED?

After

- [Why use Fluorocarbons ?](#) – essentially for safety, technical and environmental reasons
- [How to use HFCs responsibly?](#)

we introduce a new section called

- [Where are HFC used ?](#)

which will feature HFC references in a number of interesting or remarkable buildings, and in sustainable applications. HFC have indeed also a role to play in sustainability, provided they are used responsibly and their leakage minimized.

Note : as most of the information is coming from commercial sources, references will generally not be given.

To unsubscribe: vno@cefic.be

For further information about EFCTC: Valentina Bertato: vbe@cefic.be

Cefic/EFCTC – Avenue E Van Nieuwenhuyse 4, Box 2 – 1160 Brussels

Tel : 32 2 676 72 40 – Fax : 32 2 676 72 41