



PRESS RELEASE

Industry set to meet the challenge of the F-Gas regulation and calls on Member States to publish interpretation to enable full compliance

Brussels, 2 July 2007: On July 4th the EC Regulation 842/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council adopted on May 17, 2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) enters into force in all European Member States. EFCTC is a strong supporter of this EU-wide framework which facilitates a reduction in fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions by mandating the responsible use of HFCs, PFCs and SF₆ across many applications. However, as companies across Europe prepare to meet the requirements of the Regulation, aiming for swift and full compliance ahead of the Review in 2011, there remains significant uncertainty. There is a clear need for Member State for a EU-wide interpretation and guidance of the Articles contained within the Regulation in areas such as training and registration of those handling F-gases or labelling and leak detection.

Despite this uncertainty, industry's focus now is to contain emissions of all F-gases through reduced leakage, improved system design and effective recovery and recycle, whilst continuing to improved energy efficiency. To speed the implementation, EFCTC is to provide in the coming months on a dedicated website a range of information on compliance, aimed at end users of HFCs. Helping installers and users of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment to put in place the measures necessary to reach the high level of maintenance, containment and leakage control is the key to the success of the Regulation. However for this to be effective Member States must provide clear guidance on their implementation of the Regulation.

“Sharing information on implementation and best practice across Europe in partnership with Trade Associations will help to speed the successful implementation of this important Regulation. It also has the potential to reduce costs,” said Nick Campbell Chairman of EFCTC. *Our aim is to encourage industry to take the necessary steps to consider the implementation of the Regulation now, with the hope that Member States will publish their guidance as quickly as possible.”*

With the measures in place, containment will be significantly improved, meeting the aim of reducing emissions, without limiting the choice of the refrigerant. Freedom to choose the most appropriate refrigerant is the best way of delivering future improvements in performance, including energy efficiency, thus continuing to provide a significant contribution to the reduction of the climate impact of refrigeration systems, which is essentially linked to their energy consumption over their lifetime.

Used responsibly, F-Gases continue to provide important socio-economic value through the combination of their effectiveness, eco efficiency and safety in use, particularly in large public installations. Within the framework of the F-Gas Regulation they can continue to make a significant contribution whilst also helping to reduce Europe's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

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Note to Editors

(1) The key Articles contained in the Regulation include:

- to reinforce containment of F-gases in their main application: refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps. This includes defined servicing requirements and intervals to avoid of leaks; in particular, equipment containing 3 kg of F-gases or more shall be “checked for leakage” at least once a year;
- to reinforce maintenance and training requirements by ensuring the servicing, handling and proper recovery of fluids and equipment is carried out by certified personnel;
- to improve data reporting on the monitoring of F-gas emissions per sector making information available including the manufacture, use, import and export of F-gases.

(2) The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) represents the producers of fluorocarbons in the EU. Further information can be found on-line at: www.fluorocarbons.org