

Press release

Leading EU associations call upon installers to stop using the high GWP refrigerants R-404A and R-507A

Brussels, 6 February 2018: Four leading associations in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) sector – EPEE, AREA, Asercom and EFCTC – have joined forces in an unprecedented effort to call upon European installers to stop using high GWP refrigerants in the equipment they install, in particular R-404A and R-507A.

To this end, the associations have developed a leaflet for installers highlighting the key actions needed to tackle the difficult market situation created by high HFC prices and low availability. The leaflet urges installers to stop using R-404A and R-507A in new equipment, retrofit existing equipment with lower GWP refrigerants, reduce leakages and charge sizes, and recover, recycle and reclaim refrigerants.

“The fact that four industry associations representing different parts of the HVACR sector – installers, OEMs, compressor manufacturers and gas producers – worked together on this leaflet is in itself a very strong message and will hopefully trigger the much-needed acceleration of the “phase-out” of R404A and R507A,” Andrea Voigt, EPEE Director General said.

The 2015 F-gas Regulation introduced an HFC phase-down system, a completely new mechanism to ensure emission reductions through a gradual decrease in the consumption of HFCs. With a very steep phase-down reduction in 2018 and additional measures controlling and limiting the use of HFCs coming into force in 2020, the EU HFC market is in turmoil – refrigerant prices have reached record highs and availability is very limited. When undertaking a market survey as part of its [Gapometer](#) project, EPEE found that one of the main causes for this market situation is that action to stop using high GWP refrigerants like R404A and R507A has been far too slow.

The four associations will continue their collaboration to ensure that the leaflet they produced will reach contractors throughout Europe, in their local languages.

The leaflet can be downloaded [here](#).

END.

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ABOUT EPEE:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 48 member companies, national and international associations.

EPEE member companies realize a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service and maintain equipment.

EPEE member companies have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies.

Please see our website (www.epeeglobal.org) for further information.

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