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EFCTC Recognises eBay and other E-Commerce platforms for the Removal of 100 Illegal Refrigerant Listings

As part of its campaign to stem the flow of illegal refrigerants in Europe, EFCTC recognises the efforts by a number of e-commerce platforms including eBay, to identify and remove nearly 100 listings of illegal refrigerants from their platforms. By taking this action, platforms are helping the European Union achieve its ambitious targets under the F-gas Regulation.

This positive measure comes amidst a surge in the import of illegal refrigerants into Europe – much of it offered through mainstream e-commerce sites. Counterfeit refrigerant can potentially be harmful to equipment and, if contaminated, to health, and its presence disrupts the integrity of the EU's [F-gas phase-down process](#).

“Last year, the HFC phase-down in Europe resulted in a black market in refrigerants, which was about 20% of the allowable HFC quota in 2018, enabling irresponsible users of the refrigerant to avoid complying with the F-Gas Regulation leading to higher emissions,” explained EFCTC Chairman, Nick Campbell. “Today we’re faced with smuggling, mislabelling and counterfeiting of F-gas products, the use of illegal disposable cylinders, and other breaches of the F-gas regulation.”

Campbell continued: “We applaud the work done by a number of e-commerce market places, especially eBay for taking swift and decisive action to stop the sale of illegal refrigerant on their platforms and for their active, ongoing commitment to eradicating a key source of supply. We encourage those platforms that have yet to address this issue to follow suit.”

Recent EFCTC initiatives to fight the illegal refrigerant trade include the launch of an [Action Line](#) to enable the confidential reporting of illegal refrigerant imports and sales activity, and pressure on European authorities, institutions and transportation-related associations to apply correctly The Carriage of Dangerous Goods Act.

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a Cefic Sector Group that monitors legislation related to HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), and HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins) in the EU and at global level. Fluorocarbons are used as feedstock, as refrigerants, as solvents and as blowing agents for insulation plastic foams.

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