



**STOP SMUGGLING.
START TRACING.**



EFCTC STEPS UP FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE OF HFCs

Brussels, 6 May 2020 – As illegal trade in HFCs (hydrofluorocarbon gases) continues to flourish across Europe, the European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee ([EFCTC](#)) has today launched a dedicated microsite. The microsite aims to raise awareness of the issue and provide information to the value chain and other interested parties about how we can take action against it together. The microsite is intended for all actors in the supply chain – from manufacturers and traders, to end users and authorities.

“We have launched this microsite because the issue of illegal HFC trade is not going to go away by itself. This information hub is intended to help all actors in the value chain play their part in the fight against illegal HFCs”, said Tim Vink, Vice-Chair of the EFCTC and Director Global Regulatory Affairs at Honeywell.

Available in five different languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish), the site details who’s involved, the scope of the problem, and eventual solutions. It highlights how companies across Europe may be using illegally imported HFC gases without their knowledge and provides concrete guidance on how to avoid becoming a part of the problem.

The initiative builds on existing tools, including the EFCTC Action Line for anonymous reporting of suspected illegal F-gas products and trade, which already saw 228 incidences reported to it between March and December 2019. New tools, such as animations, infographics and factsheets complement, further explain and visualise the issue.

“While the ongoing work to halt the black market is starting have an impact, we cannot do this alone. I hope the EFCTC’s initiatives, such as the microsite and Action Line, will help actors from across the supply chain to become part of the solution.” Tim Vink concluded.

Visit the EFCTC microsite at www.stopillegalcooling.eu.

The Action Line for anonymous reporting of illegal F-gas products and illegal F-gas trade remains available at: <https://efctc.integrityline.org/index.php>

Background: HFCs, used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, have a high global warming potential (GWP). For this reason, the EU introduced the F-gas regulation (517/2014) to help combat climate change through using quotas to gradually reduce the quantity on the EU market. However, inadequate enforcement has led to a thriving black market outside the quotas. Although the gases enter Europe illegally, they quickly become part of the legal supply chain and are used by legitimate traders.

EFCTC

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A sector group of Cefic 

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About EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and is represented by the companies Arkema, Chemours, Daikin Chemical, Honeywell and Koura. Its main objectives are to provide up to date information about applications, safety, health and environmental effects for HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins), and the relevant European and international legislation.

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