

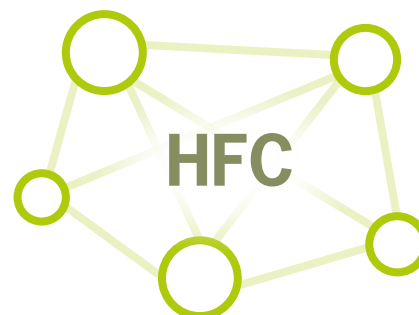
ILLEGAL TRADE OF HFCS HAMPERS CLIMATE EFFORTS



There is a growing black market for smuggled HFC refrigerants brought into Europe outside quotas defined in the F-gas regulation. They are smuggled by organised crime and undermine efforts to combat climate change.

WHAT ARE F-GASES AND HFCS?

Fluorinated gases (F-gases) are a group of gases used in a wide range of industries. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a subgroup of F-gases. There are many different types of HFCs all with different chemical compositions. They were invented to replace chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were found to deplete the ozone layer and banned globally in 1996. They perform a key role in cooling industrial processes and reducing energy use.



USES AND APPLICATIONS OF HFC



Refrigeration
in supermarkets
and industry



Fire extinguishers,
sprays and insulation



Airconditioning
in cars, homes, hotels,
hospitals, data centers
and other buildings



Heat pumps
used for space, water
and manufacturing
process heating

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF HFCS?

While HFCs are safe to use and energy efficient in their applications, they can have a high Global Warming Potential (GWP.) The GWP of HFCs ranges from relatively low and comparable to carbon dioxide, to many thousand times higher.



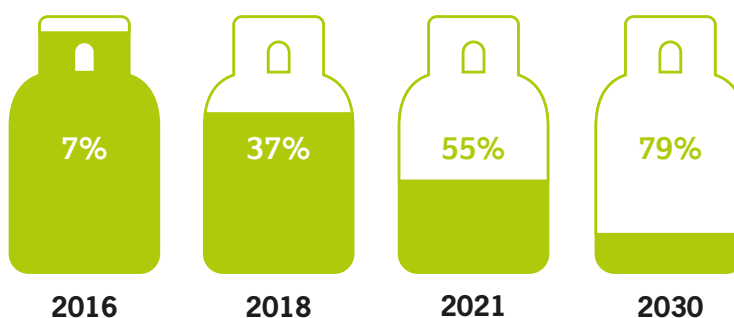
GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL (GWP)

GWP is a relative measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere within a specified time, as compared with carbon dioxide which by definition has a GWP of 1.

THE EU F-GAS REGULATION

The EU F-gas Regulation (517/2014) was put in place to help combat climate change through gradually reducing the quantity of HFCs that can be placed on the EU Market. It entered into force on 1st January 2015. The EU and legitimate producers are committed to this phase-down; however, illegitimate products are now flooding the EU market, funding organised crime.

DECREASE IN THE QUANTITY OF HFCS ALLOWED IN THE EU



ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

There is a growing black market for HFCs smuggled into the EU outside of the F-gas regulation quotas. Hotels, supermarkets, car garages and many other industries all over Europe could (unknowingly) be using these illegal HFCs.

These gases are widely circulated and readily available online or directly from the delivery van to unsuspecting buyers. Backed by organised crime, this potentially contributes to other illegal activity, contributes to climate change, leads to a loss of national tax revenue and impacts R&D of products with a lower environmental impact.

Research from Environmental Investigations Agency has found that 16.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of bulk HFCs were illegally smuggled into the market in 2018 – more than 16% over the allowable quota.



STOP SMUGGLING NOW

Everyone can do their part to support proper enforcement of EU regulations. We must all work together to stop smuggling; through reporting illegal imports, supporting higher fines and by upholding the laws set in place.

EFCTC, a coalition of the companies Arkema, Chemours, Daikin Chemical, Honeywell and Koura within CEFIC, raises awareness about the issue of illegal imports, identifies legal trade flows, collects information on smuggling behaviour and helps companies identify illegally-smuggled gases, so they can make an informed choice and be sure they are doing the right thing.



To report any illegal activity, please follow this link:

<https://efctc.integrityline.org>

ABOUT EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and is represented by the member 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 (hydrofluoroolefins), and the relevant European and international legislation.

For more information please visit:

www.fluorocarbons.org



**STOP SMUGGLING.
START TRACING.**