



REFCOM Guidance to the effects of the EU Fluorinated Gases (F Gas) Regulation No 842/2006 upon the UK RAC Industry.

This Regulation became law on the 4th July 2006 and which will come into force in the UK on the 4th July 2007. It will directly affect all RAC Sector work and below is a brief summary of how it will effect the industry. There will be reviews carried out by the EU over set periods and this may result in an extension of the Regulation and if a reduction in emissions is not validated further restriction will occur with a possibility of a total phase-out.

Full details can be found on www.defra.gov.uk or www.dti.gov.uk websites.

Contractors

Minimum training and competence requirements for operatives handling refrigerants will be employed. One year after Regulation comes into force there will be minimum mandatory levels set by Government. The EU will issue requirements and it is hoped that these will be the same as those required for the ODS Regulation (see REFCOM Guidance on ODS)

A reporting system must be set up by all Member States in order to gauge refrigerant movement and be able to produce leakage rates. Contractors will need to accurately record all transactions.

Contractors may be asked to undertake some of the equipment operator's responsibilities and this can be covered by an appropriate contract. However, this will not enable the Operator to pass on their legal responsibilities, they are still responsible for their equipment and the actions of the personnel employed to carry out any work on their behalf.

Operators

This is the term used to describe the owner of the RAC equipment. If they operate static RAC plant then they must ensure prevention of refrigerant release to atmosphere and to repair any leaks as soon as possible. They must also ensure that only competent / certified personnel are used to carry out refrigerant transactions and also any leak checking operations carried out on their behalf.

Records must be kept of all leak checking carried out. They have to maintain records on all plant with a charge greater than 3kg and hermetic equipment has a limit of 6kg.

(See Regulation for full leak check data which can be found on this section)

Manufacturers

Equipment and products must be labelled in accordance with EU requirements (that has yet to be decided). Instruction manuals will have to contain and information on the GWP of the substance used in those products.

Producers (Importers/Exporters)

This category will have to produce records of all refrigerants manufactured, sales to market sectors, all amounts reclaimed, recycled or destroyed. Exporters of more than one tonne of refrigerant per year must also report all transactions.

Sales of Refrigerant

In the EU all sales of non-refillable containers and non-refillable direct evaporation systems are banned. Sales of HFC refrigerant will be restricted to certified purchasers from 4th July 2009.