

Guidance for Stationary Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning

This Information Sheet is the first in a series that provides guidance on compliance with the EC F gas and Ozone Regulations in relation to stationary refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment (RAC systems) in the UK. Certain obligations apply to the use of refrigerants containing F gas and ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in all RAC systems. The obligations apply in many end use sectors such as supermarket and other retail operations, office buildings, leisure centres, hospitals and universities and many industrial sectors (e.g. food, drink and chemical manufacturing).

Please note, this Information Sheet only refers to use of RAC systems, which is the main area of F gas and ODS use for most organisations. Refer to Information Sheet GEN 3 to check whether you have any other uses of F gases.

Summary of Key Obligations under the EC F Gas Regulation

Many organisations use RAC systems with HFC refrigerants, which are F gases. If such refrigerants are used, the company must ensure that it meets the requirements in EC Regulation 842/2006 and GB Statutory Instrument 2008 No 41. The obligations for companies using RAC systems are described in more detail in Information Sheet RAC 3. In summary, the EC F gas Regulation requires:

Leak Checks	Regular checks for leakage; use of automatic leak detection on large systems.
Recovery	Refrigerant recovery during plant servicing and maintenance and at end of life.
Records	Good records kept for equipment containing 3 kg or more of F gases.
Training	Use of personnel with appropriate qualifications.
Other	Certain other actions including labelling of new equipment.

Summary of Key Obligations under the EC Ozone Regulation

If an organisation is using HCFC refrigerants (such as R22) it must also comply with the requirements of EC Regulation 2073/2000, and GB Statutory Instruments 2002 No. 528, 2006 No. 1510 and 2008 Nos. 91 and 97. In summary, the EC Ozone Regulation requires:

Phase Out	Phase out of HCFC usage between 2010 (virgin fluid) and 2015 (recycled fluid).
Leak Checks	Annual leakage checks for equipment containing more than 3 kg of refrigerant.
Recovery	Refrigerant recovery during plant servicing and maintenance and at end of life.
Training	Use of personnel with prescribed qualifications.

Who is responsible for meeting these obligations?

Most of the key obligations under the EC F gas Regulation are the responsibility of the “operator” – defined as “the natural or legal person exercising actual power over the technical functioning of the equipment and systems”.

RAC maintenance contractors and equipment suppliers also have certain obligations.

See Information Sheet RAC 3 for more detail about responsibility for compliance.

Some Critical Dates

4th July 2007	Leak testing for F gas systems containing 3 kg or more. Refrigerant recovery from all systems. Record keeping. Use of appropriately qualified staff. Leaking testing of systems containing 3 kg or more of ODS is already mandatory.
1st April 2008	Labels (in a standard format) stating amount and type of F gas contained must be fitted to all new equipment adjacent to the service point.
1st Jan 2010	Phase out of virgin HCFC use.
1st Jan 2015	Phase out of recycled HCFC use.

Relevant Information for RAC System Users

F-Gas Support has produced a set of information sheets that are intended to help companies understand all their obligations under the EC F gas and Ozone Regulations.

The following information sheets will be of relevance to RAC system users:



Number	Content of Information Sheet
Information Sheets on Stationary Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heat Pump Issues	
RAC1	Short overview of issues for users of RAC Systems.
RAC2	Background to F gas and ODS use in RAC Systems. Sources of emissions. Emission reduction opportunities. Alternative refrigerants.
RAC3	Detailed description of key obligations for companies.
RAC4	Getting started – advice on the steps to take to achieve compliance.
RAC5	Qualifications & Certification – details about the training and certification requirements for RAC personnel and contracting companies.
RAC6	Practical Guidance – dealing with numerous detailed RAC topics including: Leak testing, refrigerant recovery, record keeping and labelling of equipment.
General F Gas and ODS Information Sheets	
GEN 1	Glossary of Terms related to F gas and ODS Regulations.
GEN 2	Background to F gas and ODS fluids.
GEN 3	Overview of markets and equipment affected by the F gas and ODS Regulations.
GEN 4	Links to full copies of all relevant Regulations and legislation.



How to Contact F-Gas Support:

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This document has been prepared by F-Gas Support; the information provided is intended as guidance and must not be taken as formal legal advice nor as a definitive statement of the law. Ultimately only the courts can decide on legal questions and matters of legal interpretation. If you have continuing concerns you should seek legal advice from your own lawyers.

F-Gas Support is a Government funded team set up to help organisations understand their obligations under the EU Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases and Ozone Regulations. F-Gas Support is also working with Regulators to promote compliance. It is being run on behalf of Defra and the devolved administrations by the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and Enviros.