

F-GAS

SUPPORT

Promoting Compliance with F Gas and Ozone Regulations

We are pleased to share a number of current F gas related items. We hope you find them useful. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you want more information or advice on any of the items mentioned.

Company Certification

DEFRA will shortly be announcing final details of the company certification scheme. This is a key obligation in that all companies involved in F gas handling activities will require an interim company certificate by 4th July 2009. The relevant activities defined in the Regulation relate to companies that handle F gases (HFCs) during installation, maintenance or servicing of refrigeration, air-conditioning or fire protection systems. All companies that use HFCs for one of these activities will need an interim company certificate. This covers contractors of all sizes, including sole traders. It also covers end users if they employ their own technicians. Those using sub-contractors to maintain their F gas containing equipment are not affected.

If you employ in-house personnel to undertake work with F gases (HFCs) as refrigerants then contact F-Gas Support who will send you an email to alert you when the company certification scheme is operational. Email fgas-support@enviros.com – put “company certification” in the subject line of the email and provide your company name & address in the body of the email.

Morrison's and Marks & Spencer sign Compliance Assistance Agreement.

Morrison's and Marks & Spencer are the first supermarkets in the UK to make a corporate commitment by signing a Compliance Assistance Agreement with F-Gas Support. F-Gas Support has been talking to supermarkets about the high levels of F gas emissions from this sector. Read more about this at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/air-atmos/fgas/large-emitter.htm>

Consultation & New GB Regulations

The consultation on new GB Regulations related to F gases that was launched on 11th July closed on the 3rd October 2008. The consultation sought views on proposals that carry forward the implementation of the ten Commission Regulations that supplement the EC Regulation 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases. Comments were invited from six hundred and thirty seven organisations and individuals. Ninety nine responses were received, a large number of which were about company certification and personnel registration.

The consultation responses have been reviewed and considered and a summary of these responses to the consultation and the Government Response can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/fgas-ozone/index.htm>

Following the consultation, legal advisors have completed final technical checks on the proposed Regulations and there have been some minor drafting modifications. However, these do not affect the substance of the Regulations that were consulted upon. The proposed 2009 Regulations are now being laid before Parliament ready to come in to force in early March 2009.

REAL Zero

The Institute of Refrigeration, working with the Carbon Trust, has launched REAL Zero – Refrigerant Emission and Leakage. The aim of this initiative is to encourage equipment owners to change the way they think about refrigerant – instead of accounting for it as a consumable, refrigerant should be valued as part of their asset base. The effective management of refrigerant is not necessarily costly or complicated. The guidance offers practical assistance to everyone involved in purchasing, designing, installing, servicing, maintaining and owning refrigeration equipment to help them reduce leaks. Visit www.realzero.org.uk for more details or go to one of their seminars.

F-Gas Support would like to keep in touch every so often and let you know about developments in relation to F gases and ozone-depleting substances. We intend our emails to be brief and provide links to interesting issues, if however you do not wish to hear from us please reply to this email and type unsubscribe in the subject box.

Kind regards

Ray Gluckman
F-Gas Support Project Director



How to Contact F-Gas Support:

Telephone Help Line: 0161 874 3663 **Website:** www.defra.gov.uk/fgas

Email: fgas-support@enviros.com **Post:** F-Gas Support, P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD

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.