



BRA FACT FINDER

Number 12

THE F-GAS REGULATION

WARNING

This European Regulation is unusual, in that the detailed interpretation of several important articles has not yet been approved. The intention is to phase-in such specifications during 2007, 2008 and 2009.

BACKGROUND

Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of May 17, 2006 on Certain Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (F-Gases) entered into force on July 4, 2006.

Although it will apply with effect from July 4, 2007 many practical aspects regarding implementation have not yet been defined.

Member states are due to specify certain infringement penalties by July 4, 2007, and others in July 2008. The UK Government will consult with industry before these measures are put in place.

SCOPE

The regulation covers the use of HFCs (and PFCs/SF6) in all their applications, except vehicle air conditioning.

The aim is to reduce the emission of F-Gases by improved containment. Measures to support this include routine leak checks, the employment of skilled operators and better recording mechanisms.

The onus is placed on the owner (or operator) of the equipment to satisfy the requirements of the regulation. A definition of who is the operator can be found in the DEFRA/ DTI Guidance.

A copy of the regulation can be seen at:

www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30123.pdf

DEFRA/DTI GUIDANCE

The UK government is keen to ensure that this legislation works. Both DTI and DEFRA have participated in the development of the regulation, and DEFRA Global Atmosphere Policy Section 3 has taken the lead, working with industry through stakeholder and specialist groups.

Two key supporting documents have been prepared by DEFRA with input from UK industry, as follows:

1. Initial Guidance
2. Frequently Asked Questions

Both are available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/fgas>

NOTE: These documents are periodically updated. Check you have the latest version.

INDUSTRY ACTION

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) was formed to defend the RAC industry from unwarranted legislation and played a key role in preparing the F Gas Regulation. FETA/BRA were active in this work. For more information on EPEE and the F-Gas Regulation, see:

<http://www.epeeglobal.org>

FETA/BRA is also part of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board (ACRIB), which we have agreed will be the central point for interpretation of the regulation as it affects the RAC industry. An implementation group has been formed to coordinate this work and briefs on the implications of the regulation are available as well as a powerpoint presentation. See:

www.acrib.org.uk

POINTS OF DETAIL

Most members' queries will eventually be answered via the guidance above, when all aspects of the regulation have finally been agreed. If you still have an outstanding question once you have examined the above websites, please call FETA/BRA on 0118 940 3416 with the specific enquiry.

February 2007

British Refrigeration Association
2 Waltham Court, Milley Lane, Hare Hatch, Reading, Berks RG10 9TH
Tel: 0118 940 3416 Fax: 0118 940 6258 Email: info@feta.co.uk Web: www.feta.co.uk