



Advice to refrigerant suppliers on cylinder management in light of EU regulation 2037/2000

Supply of Virgin HCFC

Within the European Union under the EU regulation 2037/2000 the use of CFCs and HCFCs has been strictly controlled. The use of CFCs has been banned since 2000. The use of HCFCs such as R-22 in new equipment has been banned since 2004 and use of virgin HCFC refrigerants for service will be banned as of 1st January 2010. The use of virgin HCFCs after that date will be illegal and it is therefore recommended that refrigerant suppliers no longer make available on the market virgin HCFCs after 31st December 2009.

- As the use of virgin HCFC will be illegal from 1st January 2010 it is recommended that refrigerant suppliers inform their customers that all cylinders placed on the market containing virgin HCFC must be returned to the supplier immediately after this date. A grace period of up to 3 months for cylinder return through the supply chain is recommended and any cylinders not returned by 31st March 2010 should incur a charge as compensation for non-return of the cylinder.
- From 1st January 2010 the regulation requires that all unused virgin HCFC must be sent for destruction. Cylinders returned containing any virgin HCFC will incur a destruction charge and customers should be advised of this fact in advance of the final phase-out date. NOTE: It is illegal to deliberately vent refrigerant to atmosphere.
- Failure to return cylinders in a timely manner may cause cylinder shortages and impact on future availability of other refrigerants not covered by 2037/2000.
- To avoid being left with stocks of virgin HCFC it is strongly recommended that plans are put in place to destock the supply chain in line with the phase-out date i.e. 31st December 2009. This will inevitably lead to reduced availability of virgin HCFC during 2009.

Recovered HCFC

The stockpiling of recovered HCFC is strongly discouraged and a BRA working group will be developing guidelines once clarification has been received from the EU on precise definitions and allowed usage of recovered, recycled and reclaimed HCFCs.

Some of the HCFCs and blends covered by this legislation

R22, R123, R124, R141b, R142b, R411B, R403A/B, R401A/B/C, R402A/B, R406A, R408A, R409A/B. In some cases these may also be known by the manufacturer's trade name.