



To all members of the Air Conditioning Group (ref C101, C102)

**Minutes of the meeting of the HEVAC Air Conditioning Group
on Thursday 7th September 2023**

Nino	Nenchev	Chair	Airedale International Air Conditioning
Arthur	Bowles		Airedale International Air Conditioning
Eelco	Van Driel		Airex
David	Sowden		Chemours UK Limited
Roger	Hitchin		Consultant
Chris	Yates		FETA
Dave	Jones		Mitsubishi Electric
Mirko	Bortoloso		Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
Alan	Green		TROX UK Ltd
Shakil	Mughal		Weatherite Air Conditioning Limited
Michael	Duggan	Technical Secretary	FETA
Martyn	Cooper	Group Secretary	FETA

1 Welcome and introducing any new members or guests.

Members introduced themselves. The Chair advised that, because of a number of circumstances, that he would have to step down from this role. Chris Yates thanked the Chair for his involvement with this, and a number of other FETA groups, and the group wished him well for the future.

The Secretary will issue a note seeking volunteers for the post of both Chair and Vice Chair.

ACTION: Secretary - done

2 FETA Competition Law Guidelines

Accepting the invitation or attending the meeting will be taken as your acknowledgement that you abide by the *FETA Competition Law Guidelines* and the *Guidelines to FETA committee procedures* which are available on [FETA Competition Law and Committee Guidelines](#)

3 Minutes from meeting of 11th May 2023

The minutes were approved.

Technical items

4 Regulations and standards

4.1 F-Gas Regulations

We are expecting a UK consultation by the year end.

As far as the EU is concerned, they were unable to reach an agreement in July. Most of the sticking points are around timings concerning split A/C and Heat Pump units. There is a significant “blocking minority” of member states who have major concerns about the proposed revision.

Slides from the European Heat Pump Association explain this, and Martyn Cooper will circulate to this group.

ACTION: MC

CY showed notes from a meeting of the F-Gas Regulation Strategy Group. This group contains the President and Vice President of BRA, the President of HEVAC, Graham Wright, and Harriet Dyball from Crosthwaite Communications (CC) who will be advising on the lobbying for FETA.

Opinions/views from the meeting included the following:

1. **Assumptions**

- Although the UK Regulation is currently lagging the EU, DEFRA are not waiting for the EU to finalise its F-Gas Regulation.
- January 2025 - Implementation of Primary legislation for F-Gas Regulation.
- January 2025 onwards - Roll out of Secondary legislation – timescales for roll out not known at this stage but likely to require further political activity to influence the outcome.
- Legislation laid before Parliament – June 2024
- Legislation to be finalized by DEFRA – April -June 2024
- Consultation by DEFRA – December 2023 to February/March 2024
- General Election likely to be held in Autumn 2024 – although if held earlier, this would affect the timing of legislation.
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2. **FETA Position**

Given this is the first time MPs are voting on the F-Gas Regulation, much activity is or will be put in place by various groups to influence the outcome of the consultations and final regulation.

FETA has agreed to fund political activity to support its plans to influence the outcome of the consultation process and the drafting of the regulation. This engagement will begin in the coming months once the FETA position has been developed.

We are conscious that we need to communicate clearly on a technical subject to a non-technical audience.

The Group recognises that it needs facts and case studies to back up its position if it is going to build a strong position.

Need to able to challenge the NGOs. Industry agrees with where we need to get to but doing it too quickly will have implications for safety.

End User feedback is seen to be a critical part of the information gathering process.

3. **Process for developing the FETA Position**

Item	Activity	By When?	Resp
1.	CY/MC review the documents/videos on the Environmental Investigation Agency.	5/9/23	CY/MC
2.	Produce a document that identifies what we agree on with the EIA and where the differences lie.	13/9/23	CC/MC
3.	Circulate this paper to the group for discussion/finalization	14/9/23	CY
4.	Call to Action, facts, and case study requirements to be identified	18/9/23	HD
5.	To be raised at the HPA meeting 14/9/23, BRA Council 21/9/23, HEVAC Council 26/9/23	As per dates	CY/MC

6.	Webinar to be run for members with a Call to Action on future funding for Advocacy including what it would cover	October 23	CY/MC
7.	Funding proposal to be developed for the BRA & HEVAC Council meetings	18/9/23	CY
8.	Agreement on plan and financing at the FETA Board meeting	12/1023	CY

4. Actions for the F-Gas Regulation Strategy Group

Fortnightly meetings will be put in place on a Monday to review progress, through to the end of 2023.

Monthly report of progress for members

Action: FETA/CY

Ray Gluckman to be contacted about supplying facts to support the position paper.

Action: CY

Member list to be created for MH and NR to review with the aim of identifying those who are in contact with end-users.

Action MC - Done

4.2 Ecodesign

CY updated on CE marking and the UKCA mark.

4.3 Construction Products Regulation

Covered above.

4.4 Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

Since our last meeting there has been a further PFAS Stakeholders meeting, but this has reiterated the UK position. This diverges from the EU position and will treat PFAS based on their risk, rather than a blanket ban.

There is a UK stakeholder group on PFAS run by UK Civil Servants to brief industry and gather feedback. There are very few BRA/HEVAC members on this so anyone interested in joining please contact martync@feta.co.uk.

4.5 Standards committee updates from A/C Group delegates

An update on current and planned work in standards committees

RHE/17 Testing of air conditioning units

No report

CPL/61/4 Room air-conditioners

David Sowden is trying to get on the ISO working group and will be trying again with Geraldine Salt at BSI.

CEN/TC 156 Ventilation in Buildings

Alan Green updated members on this.

Plenary items

5 HPA update

MC updated the group on current HPA activities. The new CE has invigorated the association and has improved links with media and government. HPA have appointed a PR lead to work on media on social media. They have also appointed a technical consultant.

6 Consultations

On the high-risk building consultation there has been no response yet. Wendy Belfield of BCIA has been appointed to the government's competencies committee.

7 UK/EU trade

The UK CA and CE issue was covered earlier in the meeting. It was noted that post BREXIT there was a concern that UK is not around the table on trade issues.

CA/CE Podcast. CY has held back on doing a Podcast while the situation is uncertain. CY felt he would be doing on in a month or so with the situation as it is.

8 Funds

It was reiterated that the A/C group sinking fund would be used towards lobbying on the UK F Gas review.

9 Date of next meetings

There was a discussion about the benefits of face to face and hybrid meetings. Alan Green proposed there should be one face to face meeting a year at least. It was agreed that this would NOT be the January meeting.

ACTION: To be discussed at January meeting

10 AOB

CY was approached on VRF systems in table 6.6 of the Building Regulations, where there is confusion over whether SCOP/SEER should apply to whole systems.

ACTION: CY to issue note to members