

Comfortable Words

a comfort group fact sheet



comfort

"a state of ease or wellbeing"

F-Gas Regulations

no 2 in a series of helpful facts for comfort clients

How the F-Gas Regulations may affect you

Does your business use air conditioning, heat pumps, or refrigeration equipment?

If the answer is Yes - then you should read this.

The F-Gas regulations and you

'F-Gas' is the term used to describe fluorinated gases found in certain air conditioning and refrigeration plant. These gases (such as R134a, R407C and R410A) are in common use throughout the industry and are possibly being used in your building today. The object of this regulation is to ensure containment of these gases through professionalism and good record keeping to prevent refrigerant leakage and keep equipment maintained to a reasonable standard.

How does the F-Gas regulation affect you, the end user?

Detailed records of all plant including the weight and type of refrigerant in each need to be kept on site; you will be responsible for ensuring that leak tests are carried out and recorded. There are penalties for non-compliance.

EC Regulation 842/2006 the F-Gas regulation

1. To prevent and minimise leakage
2. Have mandatory certified inspections for leakage
3. Keep maintenance/commissioning/service records
4. Ensure 'used' refrigerant is recovered and recycled or destroyed
5. Use personnel Certified and trained to European Standard

Who is responsible for complying with the regulation?

The main responsibilities are held by the 'Operator' of the equipment. The regulation defines the operator as follows:

'Operator' means the natural or legal person exercising actual power over the technical functioning of the equipment and systems covered by this Regulation'

That is quite probably you?



The F-Gas Regulations could cause you a lot of problems

F-Gas Definitions and Requirements

Your Responsibilities

The phrase 'exercising actual power' is important – it usually places responsibility with the owner, even if there is a comprehensive maintenance contract in place. Although you may have a maintenance contract to cover your air conditioning equipment which covers all elements of the F Gas Regulation it is still the operators responsibility to act on any recommendations advised by the contractor for maintaining the air conditioning/refrigeration equipment.

It's all in the audit trail!

So employ a Company that can demonstrate that it has the technical ability, resources and infrastructure to carry out all works to your air conditioning plant to meet with F Gas Regulations and provide a complete audit trail of refrigerant usage/movement combined with an adequate leak inspection/maintenance regime. Act on recommendations (even if this means removal of troublesome equipment rather than repeat repairs). The governing bodies will now no longer accept 'ignorance' to regulations as an excuse for non compliance and as such will levy heavy fines and even custodial sentences in certain instances where it has been deemed that a blatant disregard for Regulations have occurred.

Leak Testing

Dependant on the quantity of F Gas refrigerants within your Air Conditioning/Refrigeration systems then the following requirements must be met:

- systems with a total gas charge of between **3kg and 30kg** must be leak tested **annually**
- systems with a total gas charge of between **30kg and 300kg** must be leak tested every **6 months**
- systems with a total gas charge in excess of **300kg** must be leak tested every **3 months**
- systems with a total gas charge of **>300kg** must also have a fixed leak detection system installed

Leak testing is carried out as part of our preventative maintenance regime and can be carried out in a number of different ways. Generally, system pipe work joints are tested either with an electronic leak detector or by an ultra violet torch when the system has been dosed with a fluorescent dye.

Labelling

Under the regulation all installed systems will have to have a permanent, indelible label showing the type of F-gas and the total weight installed within.

Record Keeping

You must keep records of all installed plant and record any leaks from or additions made to the equipment in your premises. When the equipment comes to the end of its life, a record of the refrigerant extracted must be recorded and kept on site. The names and details of all engineers and their companies carrying out any works to your air conditioning/refrigeration plant must also be recorded. Records must also be kept by service and installation companies of all movements (in and out) of F-gas refrigerants used/handled/disposed of. As part of a maintenance contract with Comfort we take all of the worry out of compliance. Comfort are one of the founder members of REFCOM (Register of Companies Competent to Handle Refrigerants) and as such have the infrastructure in place to ensure that you are compliant.

The F-Gas support team working with DEFRA - For more information visit www.defra.gov.uk/fgas



We are pleased to help

Whether it's impartial advice or free quotations for replacement systems we are always pleased to help.

Comfort have a wealth of experience in all areas of the air conditioning, ventilation & heating industry. Please do not hesitate to contact us for repairs, maintenance, design or sales enquiries (or just to ask a question).

For service or maintenance related issues please call **01342 830610** or e-mail service@comfort.uk.com or for systems, design or installation issues please call **01342 830600** or e-mail sales@comfort.uk.com



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Reduce Carbon/CO₂