

Comfortable Words

a comfort group fact sheet



comfort

"a state of ease or wellbeing"

All about R22

no 1 in a series of helpful facts for comfort clients

After 31 December 2009 it will be illegal to use virgin R22 refrigerant

What is R22?

R22 is an HCFC refrigerant (Hydro Chlorofluorocarbon) which has been banned for new systems since 2000 because it can damage the ozone layer if released into the atmosphere. If you have equipment more than 5 years old you probably have it in your building.

Why is R22 being phased out?

The European Union has amended the Montreal Protocol, to enforce the end of supply of R22 by 2015. This is due to the detrimental effect the refrigerant can have on the environment and the ozone layer.

How will you be affected?

R22 has not been allowed in equipment manufactured after December 2000 and the use of virgin R22 refrigerant will be banned from 31st December 2009 with only recovered gas being available. The use of recovered R22 will be permitted until 31st December 2014 but stocks are likely to be small and also extremely expensive.

What does this mean if I have R22 equipment in my building?

You will be able to continue using R22 systems up to and after 2015 but you will not be able to buy virgin refrigerant.

In 2007 - 1700 tonnes of R22 were sold, but only 210 tonnes were recovered, so if available the cost of R22 will increase because demand is going to exceed supply. The running costs of your existing plant is also likely to increase as alternative refrigerants will have to be used in place of R22 if recovered refrigerant is not available. For example if you need repair or replacement work for say a new compressor or expansion valve, there may not be any R22 available.

However, there are alternatives

Please see over the page

R-22



..... time is running out for users of R22 refrigerant

Are there any alternatives to R22?



Perhaps a 'Drop In' ?

Yes - 'Drop Ins' may be an option

There are a number of alternatives available to R22 refrigerant, known as 'drop ins'. A drop in is the term used for a refrigerant which can be used in an air conditioning or refrigeration system without having to make any changes to the compressor oil or expansion valve settings.

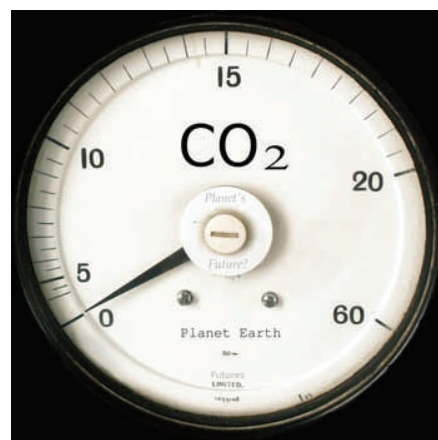
If you choose to continue running with a combination of old equipment and the new refrigerant you may experience some difficulty in maintaining room temperatures as the new refrigerants are not as efficient as R22, you will also experience an increase in running costs as the compressor will have to work harder. It will also not be possible to mix refrigerants so if you have a leak on a system that is using R22, the whole gas charge will have to be replaced at great expense.

Yes - Perhaps a new Inverter System

Perhaps now is the time to consider one of the best options - a new inverter controlled system utilising the latest zero ODP* refrigerants particularly in heat pump format as they are very energy and therefore cost efficient. They can save you up to 50% in running costs and importantly reduce CO₂ emissions by 50 to 60% as well.

Your existing pipe work can be used in many cases and payback periods can be as little as 3 years or better. Because they also reduce CO₂ they also qualify for government subsidies in the form of low interest loans, reduced VAT for residential and Enhanced Capital Allowances for commercial applications.

*ODP stands for Ozone Depletion Potential - Various incentives are available for commercial and residential users who choose to opt for new heat pump systems - see www.carbontrust.co.uk/products



Or Reduced CO₂ perhaps ?

Maybe now is the time to consider replacing your old equipment with a modern energy efficient system before you are faced with expensive repair bills for your old R22 systems. Manufacturers are also running down their stocks of R22 spare parts so it may not be possible to keep your system going for many more years. So, do not get caught out, don't say we didn't tell you!!!



We are pleased to help

Comfort can provide free quotations for replacement systems and show the payback timescale via a calculation of energy savings using new inverter driven air conditioners against your currently installed systems.

Coupled with competitive lease options and maintenance packages, we can ensure that your systems operate efficiently and qualify for extended manufacturers warranties.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further help, assistance or advice

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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