



HVCA BUSINESS⁺ PLUS

HVCA Business Plus December blog

F-Gas regulations working: emissions down and certificates up

The industry can be proud of itself: the F-Gas regulations are working. ACRIB's recent F-Gas review consultation has revealed that F-Gas emissions in the UK have decreased, particularly in the last 2-3 years.

According to a further study by French research bodies ARMINES / ERIE, the containment principle of the F-Gas Regulation has already started to deliver. The survey was commissioned by the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) to show the maximum achievable demand and emissions reduction from refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment until 2030. It looks at two future scenarios: the "F-Gas Scenario" based on the full implementation of the F-Gas Regulation combined with current market trends; and the "F-Gas Plus Scenario" taking into account a more aggressive introduction of lower GWP refrigerants, the improvement of emissions rates, lower refrigerant charges and higher recovery volumes at the end of life of the equipment containing refrigerant fluids.

The EPEE's Director General, Andrea Voigt, said the results showed that by fully implementing the EU F-Gas Regulation, emissions reduction in 2030 will even exceed the Commission's forecast by roughly 15 per cent.

The reports are excellent news for all those in the UK who now know that the extensive time and money spent on complying with the obligations – organising training courses, applying for company certificates, educating their customers, setting up asset registers and recording mechanisms – has been well spent.

Any companies undertaking installation, servicing and/or maintenance on stationary refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump (RAC) equipment that contains or is designed to contain F-gas refrigerants without holding full certification, take note. The regulations are not going away and since July 4 2011, you are committing an offence continuing to work without holding a full company certificate.

In addition, those companies who have spent time and money becoming compliant are now demanding that the regulation is more robustly enforced to catch those companies damaging the industry with their lack of compliance. They want a lot more unannounced checks by LACORS officials, instead of pre-arranged visits, to ensure all companies adhere to the regulations. It is understandable; the good work done by the vast majority needs to be rewarded by the publicised removal of the small cowboy element.

Almost 88 per cent of Refcom registered companies who held an interim certificate have upgraded to a full certificate inline with the regulations. F-Gas Support also reports encouraging figures; almost 77 per cent of those companies who held an interim certificate have now made the necessary switch to a full company certificate with 4091 holding a full certificate and 1,250 non-compliant. Further investigations revealed that 23 per cent of those non-compliant companies have made satisfactory arrangements.

The industry is doing a great job meeting these regulations and as soon as those companies lagging behind catch up the better. With a little nudge from LACORS for those non-compliant companies, the regulation can be truly effective and the industry can be proud of its professional standards.

Companies wishing to upgrade to a full company certificate can visit www.refcom.org.uk

Refcom Secretary, Steve Crocker

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