

# F-GAS

S U P P O R T

Promoting Compliance with F Gas and Ozone Regulations

## Press Release

### Company Certification numbers continue to grow

by F-Gas Support

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 it has been an offence to undertake 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 valid certification. Engineers must hold a full F gas qualification and their employer needs to hold a full Company Certificate. The requirements for a Company Certificate apply to businesses that employ personnel to work on all types and sizes of stationary RAC equipment, including sole traders and companies servicing domestic equipment.

Reassuringly, the number of full qualifications issued to engineers increased significantly in the lead up to the deadline and continue to increase, with those who were enrolled on courses now completing them. The overall picture is therefore encouraging. Tied in with that, full Company Certification figures have seen a steady increase. Figure 1 shows that the number of full Company Certificates gained peaked around the July deadline and that Certificates continue to be issued.

Fig 1: Number of Full Company Certificates Gained from June 2009-Sept 2011



Now 3 months on from the deadline the number of organisations with a full Company Certificate is almost 80% of those that held an interim Company Certificate.

We are continuing to look into the reasons why businesses have not yet upgraded. From our investigations to date at least 5% of the businesses that originally held interim Company Certificates have ceased trading, merged or moved into other areas of business. We therefore believe that no more than 15% of businesses that held an interim Company Certificate still need to upgrade to a full Company Certificate. A significant number of these have advised certification bodies that they will do so over the coming weeks.

To ensure compliance, regulatory follow-up of the organisations that have not upgraded has now started. F-Gas Support is assisting the regulators (the Environment Agency and local authorities) by undertaking checks on organisations that previously held an interim Company Certificate and have not yet upgraded to a full Certificate. Letters from the Environment Agency are now being sent to organisations that appear to be operating without the correct certifications.

If you or a company you work for has not upgraded to a full Company Certificate you need to take action now. To obtain a full Certificate, businesses must show that:

- ◆ they employ a sufficient number of engineers who hold full F gas qualifications to cover the expected volume of activities; and
- ◆ they have proof that the necessary tools and procedures are available to engineers engaged in activities for which certification is required.

Contact one of the following 4 designated certification bodies for more details on how to get a full Company Certificate.

**Bureau Veritas:**

- ◆ Website: [www.bureauveritas.co.uk/fgas](http://www.bureauveritas.co.uk/fgas) , telephone: 0207 661 0726 or email: [fgas.mail@uk.bureauveritas.com](mailto:fgas.mail@uk.bureauveritas.com)

**Quidos:**

- ◆ Website: [www.fgasregister.com](http://www.fgasregister.com), telephone: 01225 318400 or email: [fgas@quidos.co.uk](mailto:fgas@quidos.co.uk)

**Refcom:**

- ◆ Website: [www.refcom.org.uk](http://www.refcom.org.uk), telephone: 01768 860409 or email: [info@refcom.org.uk](mailto:info@refcom.org.uk)

**Stroma**

- ◆ Website: [www.stroma.com/cps/fgas](http://www.stroma.com/cps/fgas), telephone: 0845 621 11 11 or email: [fgas@stroma.com](mailto:fgas@stroma.com)

For more details see F-Gas Support information sheets RAC 3 and RAC 5 available to download from [www.defra.gov.uk/fgas](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fgas). If you have any queries about these requirements please email them to [fgas-support@enviros.com](mailto:fgas-support@enviros.com)



**Email:** [fgas-support@enviros.com](mailto:fgas-support@enviros.com)    **Website:** [www.defra.gov.uk/fgas](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fgas)

**Post:** F-Gas Support, P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD