

F Gas Regulation - Company Certification is Mandatory

F-GAS

SUPPORT

Promoting Compliance with F Gas and Ozone Regulations

Required now: It is a legal requirement in Great Britain for all businesses that install, maintain or service stationary refrigeration, air-conditioning or heat-pump (RAC) equipment that contains or is designed to contain "F gas" refrigerants¹ to hold an interim or a full Company Certificate issued by an appointed certification body. Certification bodies and F-Gas Support are working to identify those companies that have yet to acquire an interim certificate. Defra will be following up with F-Gas Support and enforcement bodies. **It is an offence if your business holds neither and you should apply for an interim or full Company Certificate urgently.**

Who is affected?

This legal requirement² applies to any organisation that directly employs engineers to install, maintain or service RAC equipment that contains or is designed to contain F gas refrigerants. This includes **RAC maintenance contractors and installers, including sole traders, and** RAC end users and facility managers employing their own qualified staff to carry out these activities.

How do I comply?

Relevant businesses must hold an interim or full Company Certificate NOW and a FULL certificate by July 2011.

How to obtain a Company Certificate

Interim certificates are only valid until July 2011. Full certificates are valid for 3 years from the date of issue.

- **Apply for an interim Company Certificate if your engineers hold one of the following qualifications:**
 - City & Guilds 2078 or 2079 or CITB J01 or J11-12.
 - Or, if your engineers only work on equipment containing less than 3 kg of F gas then they can use an in-house qualification or apply for an "interim personnel certificate" based on previous experience; contact F-Gas Support for more details.
- **Apply for a full Company Certificate if all of your engineers hold one of the following qualifications:**
 - City & Guilds 2079 or CITB J11 - J12 (or have an equivalent European qualification).

Non-compliance: powers of enforcing authorities

Your Local Authority or the Environment Agency will be the regulator for the F gas Regulations.

A regulator has a range of options at its disposal to protect the environment and will use the option or options it believes will best ensure compliance with these Regulations.

Certification bodies and further information

Defra has designated three bodies that can issue a Company Certificate - Refcom, Quidos and Bureau Veritas.

To apply for a Company Certificate contact one of them:

Refcom:	Website: www.refcom.org.uk ,	Tel: 01768 860409 or	Email: info@refcom.org.uk
Quidos:	Website: http://fgasregister.com ,	Tel: 01225 318400 or	Email fgas@quidos.co.uk
Bureau Veritas:	Website: www.bureauveritas.co.uk/fgas ,	Tel: 0207 661 0726 or	Email: fgas.mail@uk.bureauveritas.com

For general queries related to the EC F Gas and Ozone Regulations contact:

F-Gas Support: Website: www.defra.gov.uk/fgas, Helpline: 0161 874 3663 Email: fgas-support@enviros.com

¹ Common F gas refrigerants are HFCs such as R134a, R404A, R407C, R410A; a full list of F gases can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/fgas. Users of F gases are affected by the EC F gas Regulation as these refrigerants have a very high global warming potential that is up to 3,000 higher than CO₂.

² A Company Certificate is required under EC F gas Regulation 842/2006, Commission Regulation 303/2008 and the 2009 GB F gas Regulations SI no. 261