

Revised F-Gas Regulation Briefing Note

The final agreed text was approved on 18th December by the European Member States ambassadors. It will then be published and sent to the Parliament and Council for final approval. This will require a vote in the Parliament Environment Committee and then the Parliament plenary which will probably be in February or March 2014 and it will, afterwards, require approval by the European Council. It is not expected to be held up or modified in any way during this ratification process.

The main features of the revised F-Gas Regulation

The Regulation establishes the following:

- Cap and phase-down for the placing on the market of HFCs
- Bans or restrictions based on GWP of the use of F-Gases in some new equipment, such as refrigerators and air conditioners, insulating foams and technical aerosols
- Conditions (for example, reporting on quantities of HFCs contained and the need for HFC import quotas) on the placing on the market of products and equipment containing or relying upon F-Gases
- Future restrictions on servicing/maintenance of equipment using HFCs
- Rules regarding containment, use, recovery and destruction of HFCs
- The Regulation will apply from **1st January 2015**

The aim of the agreed Regulation is to reduce F-Gas emissions by two-thirds of today's levels by 2030 and to encourage the use of viable and more climate-friendly alternatives where they are readily available.

The revised Regulation in detail

1. Phase-down steps

The regulation introduces a phase-down mechanism involving a gradually declining cap on the total placement of bulk HFCs (in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) on the market in the EU.

Base line: 2009-2012 average placed on the market into the Union

Year	
2015	100%
2016-17	93%
2018-20	63%
2021-23	45%
2024-26	31%
2027-29	24%
2030	21%

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2. Restrictions/Bans

EQUIPMENT AND APPLICATION BANS ON SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT USE F-GASES		
Domestic refrigerators and freezers that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more		1st January 2015
Refrigerators and freezers for commercial use (hermetically sealed systems)	that contain HFCs with GWP of 2500 or more	1st January 2020
	that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more	1st January 2022
Stationary refrigeration equipment, that contains, or that relies upon for its functioning HFCs with GWP of 2500 or more except equipment intended for application designed to cool products to temperatures below -50°C		1st January 2020
Multipack centralised refrigeration systems for commercial use with a capacity of 40kW or more that contain, or that rely upon for their functioning, fluorinated greenhouse gases with GWP of 150 or more, except in the primary refrigerant circuit of cascade systems where fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of less than 1500 may be used		1st January 2022
Movable room air-conditioning appliances (hermetically sealed equipment which is movable between rooms by the end user) that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more		1st January 2020
Single split air-conditioning systems containing less than 3kg of fluorinated greenhouse gases, that contain, or that rely upon for their functioning, fluorinated greenhouse gases with GWP of 750 or more		1st January 2025
Foams that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more except when required to meet national safety standards	Extruded polystyrene (XPS)	1st January 2020
	Other foams	1st January 2023
Technical aerosols that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more, except when required to meet national safety standards or when used for medical applications		1st January 2018

3. HFC Import quota

The Commission shall allocate quotas for placing HFCs on the market for each producer and importer for each year beginning with the year 2015 applying the allocation mechanism laid down in Annex VI.

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The reference values for the producers and importers will be re-calculated by 31st October 2017 and every three years after that on the basis of the annual average of the quantities of HFCs lawfully placed on the market after 1st January 2015 as reported under Article 17 for the years available.

Each producer/importer will receive a quota corresponding to 89% of the reference value multiplied by the percentage. The remaining percentage will cover imports from newly registered importers and HFCs that are imported in equipment.

4. Servicing and maintenance restrictions

A number of provisions on servicing have been introduced as follows:

- The use of fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP > 2500 to service or maintain refrigeration equipment with a charge size of 40 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent or more shall be prohibited from 1st January 2020. This provision shall not apply to military equipment or equipment intended for applications designed to cool products to temperatures below -50°C.

The maximum allowable charge weights for some of the popular high GWP refrigerants are illustrated below:

Refrigerant	GWP	Max. Charge Size (40 tonnes CO ₂ equivalent)
R404A	3922	10.2kg
R507A	3985	10.0kg
R422A (Isceon 79)	3143	12.7kg
R422D (Isceon 29)	2729	14.6kg
R434A (RS-45)	3245	12.3kg

- Until 1st January 2030, this provision shall not apply to reclaimed fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP > 2500 used for the maintenance or servicing of existing refrigeration equipment, provided that they have been labelled in accordance with Article 10 (4a) to Article 9 (3).
- Until 1st January 2030 this provision shall not apply to recycled fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP > 2500 used for the maintenance or servicing of existing refrigeration equipment provided they have been recovered from such equipment. Such recycled gases may only be used by the undertaking which carried out their recovery as part of maintenance or servicing or the undertaking for which the recovery was carried out as part of maintenance or servicing.

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5. Import of equipment rules/Traceability

A detailed traceability process has been established for the import of equipment containing HFCs. From 1st January 2017 refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment charged with HFCs shall not be placed on the market unless the HFCs charged into this equipment **are accounted for within the HFC quota system**. An annual declaration of conformity by equipment manufacturers/producers, verified by an external auditor, is required.

6. Review clauses

- 1st July 2017: Report on the Annex III, point 11b (the multipack centralized systems) to see if alternatives are available and viable.
- Report assessing the quota allocation method, including the impact of grandfathering and the costs of implementing this Regulation in Member States and of a possible international agreement on HFCs.
- In view of this, a legislative proposal may be presented to amend the quota allocation method (fees, auctioning, etc)
- 1st July 2020: Report on Annex III, single split AC and the availability of alternatives
- 31st December 2020: Report on the availability of HFCs on the Union market
- 31st December 2022: A comprehensive report on the effects of this Regulation

For any queries you may have regarding this legislation or indeed any information you may require regarding the entire portfolio of products supplied by Harp International Limited, please contact:

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