

Technical Update – 'F-Gas' Up Date October 2007

The F-Gas Regulation – *What it means to you as a contractor*

Training & Certification

Engineers & companies must be trained & certified

Minimum requirements will be set by October 2007

The European contractors AREA has proposed a complex set of qualifications that far exceed the requirements for F – Gas. The UK industry through DEFRA is trying to get the Commission to accept requirements more in line with the regulations.

Presently the proposal is for three levels of qualification:

Leak Detection Only

Work on domestic and small systems

Work on Large Systems

In the mean time the City & Guilds 2078 and the CITB Safe Handling qualification will do. Later further training will be required. A phase in period of 3 years is proposed that is to 2011.

Supply: F-Gas Refrigerants will be supplied for certified engineer use only, from mid 2009.

Systems of 3 kg charge and over (Hermetic systems 6kg charge and over)

Inspections for Leaks :

Detected leaks must be repaired as soon as possible

Inspections based on charge size, must be carried out by certified engineers

- 3 kg and over, at least every 12 months
(At least every 24 months with installed leak detection in place)
- 30 kg and over, at least every 6 months
(At least every 12 months with installed leak detection in place)
- 300 kg and over, at least every 3 months and must have installed leak detection equipment
- Installed detection equipment must be inspected at least every 12 months
- Repaired leaks must be re-inspected within 1 month

Records:

Must be kept by the operator – containing:

Refrigerant type, charge size, inspection dates, leak repairs, amounts of recharges, top-ups and recovered refrigerant, name of contractor, signed and dated by engineer.

Systems of 30 kg and over must be highlighted in the records.

Labels:

Systems must be labelled at service points – with:

Wording 'Contains fluorinated greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol' e.g. R134a, R407C etc.

Quantity charged at point of manufacture in kg.

Label design and other requirements are expected in October 2007

Recovery :

F-Gas Refrigerants must be recovered for re-use, recycling or destruction.

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