

EU F-Gas Regulation Guidance

Information Sheet 26: Bans for New Products and Equipment

Target audience for this Information Sheet

This information sheet is aimed at all organisations that purchase new equipment and products that could contain F-Gases. This includes end users of refrigeration, air-conditioning, aerosols, fire protection systems and insulating foams. It is also of relevance to companies that manufacture and sell such products.

1. Background

This guidance is for organisations affected by the 2014 EU F-Gas Regulation (517/2014). The F-Gas Regulation creates controls on the use and emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-Gases) including HFCs, PFCs and SF₆. The 2014 EU F-Gas Regulation replaces the 2006 Regulation, strengthening all of the 2006 requirements and introducing a number of important new measures. The 2014 Regulation includes a number of bans on the use of F-Gases in new products. This Information Sheet summarises all the bans in the F-Gas Regulation.

A wide range of further guidance is available for other aspects of the EU F-Gas Regulation – see Information Sheet 30 for a full list and a glossary of terms.

2. New Product Bans in the F-Gas Regulation

The 2014 F-Gas Regulation includes 20 bans on the use of F-Gases in specific new products and new equipment. Bans affect the following markets:

- a) Refrigeration
- b) Air-conditioning
- c) Fire protection
- d) Aerosols
- e) Foam insulation
- f) Others (including windows, footwear and car tyres)

Nine of the bans were already in the 2006 F-Gas Regulation and were all in force by 2009. The 11 new bans come into force between 2015 and 2025.

The bans are specified in Article 11 of the Regulation and detailed in Annex III. Each ban is based on a product definition and a specified scope of F-Gases (e.g. HFCs with a GWP above 150). It is important to emphasise that the bans referred to in this Information Sheet are for new products and equipment.

Article 11 describes three exemptions to the bans:

- 1) Military equipment (this only refers to specialised equipment such as tanks and aircraft)
- 2) Eco-design: If the lifecycle emissions (including energy and F-Gases, established under Directive 2009/125/EC) are lower with a banned product, an exemption can be granted.
- 3) Limited 4 year exemptions, where it can be shown that there are technical or safety issues.

Exemptions (2) and (3) require the agreement of the European Commission for each specific product.

New Products and Equipment: F-Gas Ban Summary Table

Market Sector	Product Description	Scope of banned F-Gases	Start Date ¹
Refrigeration	Non-confined direct evaporation systems	All HFCs and PFCs	2007
	Domestic refrigerators and freezers ²	HFCs with GWP > 150	2015
	Refrigerators and freezers for commercial use (hermetically sealed) ³	HFCs with GWP > 2,500	2020
		HFCs with GWP > 150	2022
	All stationary refrigeration equipment ⁴	HFCs with GWP > 2,500	2020
	Multipack central systems for commercial use with a cooling capacity above 40kW ⁵	F-Gases with GWP > 150	2022
Air-conditioning	Moveable, hermetically sealed air-conditioning	HFCs with GWP > 150	2020
	Single split systems containing 3 kg or less	F-Gases with GWP >750	2025
Insulating foam ⁶	One component foam aerosols	F-Gases with GWP > 150	2008
	Extruded Polystyrene foam (XPS)	HFCs with GWP > 150	2020
	Other foams (including polyurethane)	HFCs with GWP > 150	2023
Fire protection	Systems using PFCs	All PFCs	2007
	Systems using HFC 23	HFC 23	2016
Aerosols	Novelty aerosols ⁷ and signal horns	HFCs with GWP > 150	2009
	Technical aerosols ⁸	HFCs with GWP > 150	2018
Other applications	Non-refillable containers for bulk product	All F-Gases	2007
	Windows for domestic use	All F-Gases	2007
	All other windows	All F-Gases	2008
	Footwear	All F-Gases	2006
	Tyres	All F-Gases	2007

¹ All start dates from 2015 onwards are January 1st of year specified

² This ban includes both refrigerant and foam blowing agent

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⁴ Exemption for equipment cooling products below -50°C

⁵ The primary circuit of cascade systems can use an HFC with a GWP up to 1,500

⁶ Exemption where F-Gas is required to meet national safety standards

⁷ For entertainment and decorative purposes as listed in Point 40, Annex XVII, Regulation EC/1907/2006

⁸ Exemptions: (a) when required to meet national safety standards, (b) medical applications

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This Information Sheet has been prepared by Gluckman Consulting

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