

EU F-Gas Regulation Guidance

Information Sheet 24: Training and Certification Requirements for High Voltage Electrical Switchgear

Target audience for this Information Sheet

This Information Sheet is aimed at individuals and organisations that carry out SF₆ handling operations related to high voltage switchgear.

The guidance will also be useful for operators of equipment using F-Gases that need to use certificated technicians for installation and maintenance.

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.

Training and certification is an important feature of the F-Gas Regulation as it ensures that technicians understand how to minimise emissions during installation, maintenance and at end-of-life of equipment containing F-Gases.

This Information Sheet describes the requirements that apply to training and certification related to high voltage electrical switchgear using SF₆. Further guidance is available – see Information Sheet 30 for a full list and a glossary of terms.

Training and Certification Requirements for EU F-Gas Regulation

Personnel training and certification for F-Gas handlers is required for:

- ✓ High voltage electrical switchgear

Important note: training and certification requirements in the 2014 F-Gas Regulation are based largely on the existing requirements in the 2006 Regulation. Existing qualifications remain valid.

2. Personnel Training and Certification – General Requirements

Activities covered by personnel training requirements

Personnel involved in certain activities on equipment that contains or is designed to contain F-Gases require an F-Gas handling training qualification. In particular, this applies to:

- Installation
- Maintenance or servicing
- F-Gas recovery
- Decommissioning

Sectors requiring mandatory personnel training

The end user sectors for which these training requirements apply includes high voltage electrical switchgear – this means electrical equipment of any size that contains SF₆.

Who should hold a personnel training certificate?

All technicians that carry out the activities detailed above on high voltage electrical equipment containing SF₆ must hold an F-Gas handling certificate. This requirement applies both to in-house staff and to personnel employed by external contractors.

An appropriate qualification for personnel working on these systems can only be awarded by an approved certification and evaluation body. These are bodies that have been approved by the UK Government, as detailed in GB Statutory Instrument 261/2009¹.

Scope of personnel training

The F-Gas Regulation requires all EU Member States to provide suitable training programmes for personnel working in these areas. The training programmes must cover:

- applicable regulations and technical standards
- emission prevention
- recovery of fluorinated greenhouse gases
- safe handling of equipment of the type and size covered by the certificate
- **NEW:** information on relevant technologies to replace or to reduce the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and their safe handling.

The detailed scope of training is defined in European Commission Regulations published to support the 2006 F-Gas Regulation. These Regulations are still valid. The relevant training Regulation is:

- Regulation EC/305/2008 High voltage switchgear

This Commission Regulation specifies the required practical skills and theoretical knowledge and it specifies the conditions for mutual recognition of certificates between EU Member States.

Validity of existing personnel certificates

Existing certificates issued in accordance with the 2006 EU F-Gas Regulation remain valid, in accordance with the conditions under which they were originally issued.

It is important to note that the training requirements have been slightly extended in the 2014 Regulation, but this will not invalidate any existing certificates. Member States need to ensure that all personnel holding existing certificates have access to information regarding each of the following:

- relevant technologies to replace or to reduce the use of F-Gases and their safe handling
- existing regulatory requirements for working with equipment containing alternative refrigerants to F-Gases

It is not yet clear how this requirement will be fulfilled in the UK. It is likely that standard information material will be prepared by experts and circulated to certificate holders via Certification Bodies or training centres.

¹ Note, this Statutory Instrument is being replaced, although it is still in force in the first quarter of 2015. A new SI will replace it during 2015; it is not expected that the list of approved bodies will change.

3. Personnel Training and Certification – Requirements for Switchgear

UK Personnel Certification and Evaluation Bodies for Switchgear

Personnel wishing to undertake installation, servicing and maintenance on high voltage electrical switchgear containing SF₆ must obtain one of the qualifications listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Details of Certification and Evaluation Bodies and Qualifications offered

Certification / Evaluation Body	Contact Details	Qualification
ABB Limited	Daresbury Park, Daresbury, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4BT Telephone: 01925 741111	Not currently offering a course in the UK. No information on future plans.
Alstom Grid UK Ltd (formerly Areva T&D UK Limited)	St Leonards Avenue, Stafford, ST17 4LX Telephone: 01785 25 00 70 E-mail: technical.institute@alstom.com W: www.alstom.com/grid/findyourtraining/	◆ SF6 Gas recovery <u>Depending on experience:</u> 2 day course including assessment - (ref V0033E) 3.5 day course including assessment - (ref V0032E)
EA Technology Limited	Capenhurst Technology Park, Capenhurst, Chester CH1 6ES. Telephone: 0800 028 7243 Email: events@eatechnology.com W: www.eatechnology.com	◆ SF6 Gas competence (ref V0485) 2 day course including assessment.
Lucy Electric UK Limited	Howland Road, Thame Oxfordshire, OX9 3UJ Telephone: 01844 267267 Contact: Henry Brown	Currently only provides training for internal employees which meets the requirements of EC 305/2008.
Schneider Electric Limited	123 Jack Lane, Leeds, LS10 1BS Telephone: 0113 290 3500 Contact: Kevin Jones Email: Kevin.jones-gbt-d@gb.schneider-electric.com	Not currently offering a course, but may do in the future
Siemens Transmission and Distribution Limited	2 Koppers Way, Monkton Business Park South, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2EZ Telephone: 0191 401 5449 Contact: Phil Letouze Email: phil.letouze@siemens.com W: https://product-training.siemens.com/power-academy_static/static_documents/Katalog_PA_US_110324.pdf	◆ SF6 Gas competence – operational course 2 day course including assessment.
E.ON UK plc	Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8LG Telephone 02476 424000	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
EDF Energy Networks (EPN) plc	40 Grosvenor Place, Victoria, London SW1X 7EN.	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
EDF Energy Networks (SPN) plc	Telephone: 0207 752 2209	
Electricity Northwest Limited	Dalton House, 104 Dalton Avenue, Birchwood Park, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6YF Telephone: 01925 534550.	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	1-3 Strand, London, WC2N 5EH Telephone: 01623 870100	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Scottish and Southern Energy plc	Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ Telephone: 01737 456000	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Scottish Power Development	Dealain House, Napier Road, Wardpark, Cumbernauld, G68 0DF Telephone: 0141 636 4752	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Western Power Distribution (South Wales)	Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol BS2 0TB	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Western Power Distribution (South West)		

4. Other Related Information

NEW: Purchase of F-Gases

The F-Gas Regulation states that:

“Bulk supplies of F-Gases shall only be sold to and purchased by undertakings that hold the relevant certificates or attestations”

Companies selling F-Gases will need to screen their customers to ensure compliance with this requirement. In most cases the required proof is a Company Certificate. See Information Sheet 19 for further details about customer screening.

Exemption from Personnel Certification

The following exemption applies to trainees:

- Trainees are exempt for up to 1 year, but they must work under the supervision of a technician with a valid F-Gas personnel qualification and must be enrolled on a relevant training course to obtain an appropriate F gas qualification.

What is the status of a non-UK personnel qualification?

The EC F-Gas Regulation requires that Member States give mutual recognition to certification of suitable qualifications from other EU countries. This will apply to certificates that meet the minimum requirements specified in Commission Regulation EC/304/2008. The European Commission has published a list of qualifications that meet the minimum requirements.

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This Information Sheet has been prepared by Gluckman Consulting

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This document can be used and distributed for no charge. It contains the best information available to date and will be updated as more or different information is made available. It does not seek to provide a definitive view on the legal requirements; only the courts can provide such a view. If there are uncertainties you should always refer to the text of the Regulation and seek qualified legal advice.

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