



Guidance for Fire Protection Sectors

This Information Sheet is the first in a series that provides guidance on compliance with the EC F gas and Ozone Regulations in relation to the fire protection sector. The guidance will be of help to users of fire protection systems using fluorinated gases (F gases). It is also aimed at those companies directly involved in installation, maintenance or servicing activities. Certain obligations apply to the use of F gases and Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) in fire protection systems. Typically these obligations are in relation to the following F gas fire extinguishants: HFC227ea, HFC125, HFC23 and HFC236fa. These fluids are often referred to by alternative Trade Names (e.g. HFC227ea is also known as FM 200). See Information Sheet FP 2 for a list of relevant fire protection agents.

Please note, this Information Sheet only refers to the use of F gas based fire protection systems. Refer to Information Sheet GEN 3 to check whether you have any other uses of F gases.

Summary of Key Obligations under the EC F Gas Regulation

Certain fire protection systems use HFCs, which are F gases. If F gases are used in fire protection systems the requirements set out in EC Regulation 842/2006 and the GB Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (Statutory Instrument No 261) must be met. The obligations for the fire protection industry and those who operate and work on fire protection systems are described in more detail in Information Sheet FP 3. In summary, the F gas Regulation requires:

Leak Checks	Regular leak checks for systems containing 3 kg or more of F gases.
Recovery	Appropriate F gas recovery during servicing and maintenance and at end of life.
Records	Good records kept for each system containing 3 kg or more of F gases.
Training & Certification	Use of personnel with appropriate qualifications.
	Company certification required for all companies employing personnel to undertake installation, servicing or maintenance on F gas containing equipment.
	Companies taking delivery of F gases need to employ personnel with appropriate qualifications if undertaking leak checking, gas recovery or other activities, such as plant installation, servicing and maintenance.
Labelling	Products placed on the market must be properly labelled.

Summary of Key Obligations under the EC Ozone Regulation

The Ozone Regulation EC Regulation 2037/2000 has already reduced the emissions of ODS by requiring the removal of all halons from service in the fire protection sector – except for critical uses, principally in the military and in aviation. Practically all use of halon in fire protection systems has ceased. Hence, the Ozone Regulation no longer has any impact on the majority of users of fire protection equipment.

Who is Responsible for Meeting These Obligations?

Most of the obligations under the EC F gas Regulations are the responsibility of the "operator" of the fire protection system. Installation and maintenance contractors and fire protection equipment suppliers also have certain obligations, along with producers, exporters and importers. "Operator" is defined as:

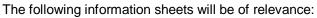
'the natural or legal person exercising actual power over the technical functioning of the equipment and systems covered by this Regulation; a Member State may, in defined, specific situations, designate the owner as being responsible for the operator's obligations.'

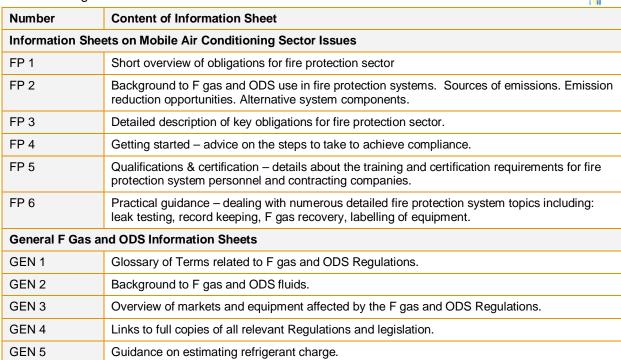
Some Critical Dates

4 th July 2007	Leak testing for F gas systems containing 3 kg or more. Leakage detection systems installed for applications containing 300 kg or more of F gases. F gas recovery from all systems. Record keeping. Use of appropriately qualified personnel.
31 st March 2008	Annual Reporting by importers, exporters & producers to Defra and the European Commission on quantities of F gas.
1 st April 2008	Labels (in a standard format) stating amount and type of F gas contained must be fitted to all new equipment.
4 th July 2009	Interim or full company certification required for those employing personnel who undertake certain activities on F gases containing equipment.
4 th July 2010	Interim personnel and company certification no longer valid. All personnel and companies engaged in leak checking shall be certified to meet the minimum Commission requirements.
4 th July 2010	Leakage detection systems fitted to fire protection systems containing 300 kg or more of F gases – for systems initially installed before 4 July 2007.

Relevant Information for Fire Protection Companies & Companies Using HFC Fire Protection Systems

F-Gas Support has produced a set of information sheets that will help the fire protection sector using or working on HFC based fire protection systems understand all their obligations under the F gas and Ozone Regulations.







How to Contact F-Gas Support:

Telephone Help Line: 0161 874 3663 Website: www.defra.gov.uk/fgas

Email: fgas-support@enviros.com Post: F-Gas Support, P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD

This document has been prepared by F-Gas Support; the information provided is intended as guidance and must not be taken as formal legal advice nor as a definitive statement of the law. Ultimately only the courts can decide on legal questions and matters of legal interpretation. If you have continuing concerns you should seek legal advice from your own lawyers.

F-Gas Support is a Government funded team set up to help organisations understand their obligations under the EU Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases and Ozone Regulations. F-Gas Support is also working with Regulators to promote compliance. It is being run on behalf of Defra and the devolved administrations by the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and Enviros.