

The following is a summary of what we believe to be the key points from EC842/2006 'F' Gas regulation, given effect by the Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 41 on the 15th February 2008 . We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with all aspects of this regulation before deciding what action is appropriate to your business. Full details of this regulation can be found by following the following links at the bottom of this datasheet.

Many currently used refrigerants including **HFC's** are subject to the **European F Gas Regulation No 842/2006**. The regulation aims to minimise emissions of these gasses, which will affect **Global Warming** if they are allowed to escape or leak to air. It currently applies to all non hermetically sealed systems containing 3kg or more of refrigerant and hermetically sealed systems containing over 6kg of refrigerant. **This regulation became Law on the 4th July 2006.**

HFC Based Refrigerants

In many air conditioning systems and chiller applications, **R407C** or **R410A** are the most popular refrigerants currently in use. Many new systems are now supplied pre charged with these refrigerant types. Whilst both of these have an Ozone Depleting Potential (**ODP**) rating of zero, they both have Global Warming Potential (**GWP**) and as such are likely to be subject to further usage restriction in the future. Extensive research is currently under way to establish suitable replacements for these refrigerants that whilst maintaining the characteristics essential for efficient performance in air conditioning systems, are zero rated for both **GWP** and **ODP**.

The new legal requirements are:

Operators (defined as the people or organisations that have actual power over the technical functioning of the equipment) are now **legally** responsible to ensure that:

- Any leaks are repaired as soon as possible by certified personnel
- Refrigerant recovery is carried out by certified personnel during servicing and disposal
- Leak checks are carried out by certified personnel using a specific leak check procedure
- Only certified personnel carry out installation, service or maintenance work
- Records of usage of refrigerants and of servicing are filled in by certified personnel
- The size of there equipment is recorded. If it is not already known it must be calculated by certified personnel

All systems containing HFC based refrigerants with a charge of between **3kg and 30kg** or over must be **inspected** for leakage by a qualified engineer **an annual basis**. Any repairs to leaks found must be **retested within 1 month** of the repair being completed.

As a **rule of thumb**, systems containing more than 3kg of refrigerant are likely to be rated in excess of 7.5kw but this **needs to be verified** by the manufacturer/installer. The ACRIB web site also contains a calculator if you are unsure of the charge. A link to this is shown at the bottom of this page.

All installers and maintenance service providers must ensure that their operatives all hold current **refrigerant handling qualifications** before working on any systems.

The above is a summary of a number of a number of regulations and documented procedures. Full copies of these can be found at the following web sites:

References and Further Information

The F Gas Regulation <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file34176.pdf>

ACRIB website www.acrib.org.uk

DEFRA website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/fgas/index.htm>

Full text of the Commission decision on Leak checking <http://www.acrib.org.uk/MPLUGB71936>

Guidance on how to calculate system charge

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/fgas/pdf/refrigerantcalculator-v1-4.xls>

This is document is intended to make our customers aware of the main points of the regulations, **it should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law and is not a substitute for legal advice**. Interpretation of the law is a matter for the courts and we can accept no liability for any loss resulting from reliance on this document.

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The information contained herein is correct at the time of issue, but may be subject to change without prior notice.

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