

21 May 2014

F-Gas Regulation: Text published in the Official Journal of the EU

On the 20th of May, the [Regulation \(EU\) No 517/2014](#) on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases was published in the Official Journal of the EU. Previously, the European Parliament adopted the proposal with an overwhelming majority on the 12th of March which was soon followed by the unanimous endorsement of the national Ministers at their Council meeting on the 14th of April. **The new law will be directly applicable in all EU Member States as from the 1st of January 2015.**

Facts and Figures

This Regulation, which cancels [Regulation \(EC\) No 842/2006](#), will introduce **a ban on fixed refrigeration systems containing F-gases** with a Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 2,500 or more by 1 January 2020. This means that as of this date building a new cold store that uses F- Gases with a GWP above 2,500 as refrigerant will not be possible. Servicing and maintaining existing cold stores with recycled or reclaimed F-Gases above a GWP of 2,500 will be possible only until 1 January 2030. Here is what to keep in mind:

- The use of F-gas will be capped in 2015
- The phase down will start then and by 2030 the amount of F-gases used shall be 21% of today's levels
- The baseline to calculate the phase down on has been set to the years 2009-2012
- The use of F-gases in industrial refrigeration will be banned as of 2020. Important: this is intended for newly built cold stores. In other words: this means that as of 1 January 2020 an operator cannot choose F-gas as the refrigerant for his NEW installation
- The banning of HFCs as of 2020 will consequently mean that no maintenance with virgin fluids will be allowed as of that date
- The maintenance of EXISTING installations with recycled or reclaimed F-gases will be allowed until 2030
- The allocation fee for F-gases per tonne CO₂ for producers and importers when accessing their quota (=price on HFC quotas), as suggested by the European Parliament, has been deleted.

To know more about the Regulation please check ECSLA's [press release](#) issued after the vote in the European Parliament on the 12th of March.

Next Steps

- The new law will apply in all Member States as from the 1st of January 2015. Since it is a Regulation, the new text does not need any transposition into national laws and it will be directly applicable once it enters into force.

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