

Form of the label

The label should be designed and affixed in such a way as to ensure that:

- It is clearly legible (stands out clearly from the background, suitably large, sufficient spacing)
- The font size of the relevant information is not smaller than the minimum font size of other information on that label
- It will remain securely in place on the product or equipment and will be legible under normal operational conditions, throughout the entire period during which the product or equipment will contain F-Gases.

Information on the label

The label should have the following information:

- The text **'Contains fluorinated greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol'**
- The abbreviated chemical names of the F-Gases using the accepted industry nomenclature standard to the equipment or substance (e.g. R-134a, HFC-134a)
- The quantity of F-Gases expressed in kg. Where the gas is added outside the manufacturing site and the resulting total quantity is not defined by the manufacturer, the label must contain the quantity charged in the manufacturing plant and must provide space on the label for the quantity added outside the manufacturing plant, as well as the total quantity of F-Gases.
- The text **'Hermetically sealed'**, if applicable.

In addition, the label of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment insulated with foam blown with F-Gases should have:

- The text **'Foam blown with fluorinated greenhouse gases'**.

Language of the label

Member States may require the information to be in their official languages when products or equipment are placed on the EU market in their territory.

Information on instruction manuals

The instruction manuals of those products and equipment should also include information on the F-Gases contained, including their global warming potential.

Products subject to prohibition

The placing on the market of the following products and equipment is prohibited.

Products / Equipment	Containing
Non-refillable containers	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆
Non-confined direct-evaporation systems containing refrigerants (e.g. self-chilling beverage containers)	HFCs, PFCs
Fire protection systems and fire extinguishers	PFCs
Windows for domestic or other use	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆
Footwear	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆
Tyres	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆
One-component foams (except when required to meet national safety standards)	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆
Novelty aerosols for entertainment and decorative purposes (e.g. horns for parties, silly string aerosols, artificial snow and frost)	HFCs (as of 4 July 2009)

More information

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/fluor>

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Information

for those

**Producing, importing, exporting
or using fluorinated greenhouse
gases and placing equipment
containing those gases
on the EU market**



Regulation (EC) No 842/2006
on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases
and implementing acts

Producing, importing, exporting or using fluorinated greenhouse gases and placing equipment containing those gases on the EU market



Introduction

Under the Kyoto Protocol, the European Union has made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 8% compared to the base year 1990 between 2008 and 2012. Greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol are amongst others, three groups of fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-Gases): hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Most of these F-Gases have a high global warming potential (GWP).

They are used in several types of products and applications, including refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment, fire protection systems, foams, aerosols, solvents and high-voltage switchgear.

Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-Gas Regulation) came into force in 2006. The aim of the Regulation is to reduce emissions of these gases and to contribute to the Kyoto emission reduction target of the European Union and its Member States.

The Regulation, supplemented by 10 Commission Regulations (implementing acts), lays down specific requirements for the various stages of the whole life cycle – from the production to the end of life – of F-Gases. Consequently, various actors are affected by the Regulation.

Who does this leaflet address?

This leaflet is for **producers, importers and exporters of F-Gases, users of F-Gases** in certain applications, as well as **those placing certain products and equipment containing F-Gases on the EU market**. The aim of this document is to provide information and guidance on the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 and its implementing acts and is not of a binding nature. Information for operators of equipment and relevant technical personnel and companies, covered by the Regulation, is available in separate publications.

A. Producing, importing or exporting F-Gases

Reporting duties

Who is affected?

Any person or company who produces, imports and/or exports **more than 1 tonne of F-Gases or preparations containing F-Gases per year**.

- Imports and exports means purchases from or sales to a country **outside** the EU
- Imports and exports cover bulk shipments, as well as containers of F-Gases transported together with equipment but not quantities contained in imported or exported products or equipment (e.g. pre-charged equipment). Affiliated companies registered in different Member States should report individually, whereas reporting is normally done at company level (not at facility level).

What has to be reported?

Information which needs to be reported for each F-Gas substance includes:

- Quantities produced, imported or exported
- Stocks held at the beginning and end of the year
- Quantities reclaimed, destroyed or used as feedstock by the reporting entity
- Intended applications of quantities placed on the market

The format of the report is set out in the Annex of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1493/2007. The reporting form and additional information are available online at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/fluor/reporting_en.htm

The report must be submitted to the Commission and the authority of the Member State concerned, annually by **31 March** covering the previous calendar year.

B. Using F-Gases in certain applications

The use of SF₆ (sulphur hexafluoride) or its preparations is prohibited:

- In magnesium die-casting except where the quantity used is below 850kg per year
- For the filling of vehicle tyres

C. Placing on the market certain products and equipment containing F-Gases

Products subject to labelling

The placing on the market of the following products and equipment is prohibited unless they are marked with a label which complies with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1494/2007.

Products / Equipment	Containing or designed to contain*
Refrigeration products and equipment (except those in motor vehicles)	HFCs, PFCs
Air conditioning products and equipment (except those in motor vehicles)	HFCs
Heat pumps	HFCs
Fire protection systems and fire extinguishers	HFCs
Switchgear	SF ₆
Containers	HFCs, PFCs, SF ₆

*Pure substances or in preparations

Position of the label

Taking into account the technical profile of the equipment, the label should be placed on the product or equipment in one of the following positions to ensure visibility to installation and servicing technicians:

- Adjacent to service points for charging or recovering the fluorinated greenhouse gas
- Adjacent to servicing access locations
- On the part of the product or equipment which contains the gas
- On or adjacent to existing nameplates or product information labels

For split type air conditioning and heat pumps with separate indoor and outdoor sections the label should be placed on the part which is initially charged with the refrigerant.