



# Life after the virgin<sup>1</sup> HCFC ban

**F-GAS**

S U P P O R T  
Promoting Compliance with F Gas and Ozone Regulations

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the rules regarding the use of HCFC refrigerants such as R22 in the UK. It provides an update for refrigeration engineers, based on the new EU Ozone Regulation (EC 1005-2009) that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

<p><b>What can I do with virgin HCFC (e.g. R22)?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ It <u>cannot</u> be used for plant servicing and maintenance. Existing stocks of virgin HCFC <u>must not</u> be used to top up a plant.</li> <li>◆ You should return it to the original supplier. This may be subject to a charge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What HCFC can I use for plant maintenance?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recycled</li> <li>◆ Reclaimed</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is the difference between recycled and reclaimed refrigerant?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recycled HCFC has been recovered from an existing refrigeration circuit and subjected to a basic cleaning process, e.g. passed through a filter/drier.</li> <li>◆ Reclaimed HCFC has been recovered from an existing refrigeration circuit and chemically processed to a specified standard and identified as such by the label.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How and where can they be used?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recycled HCFC can only be used at the site it came from or other sites belonging to the same owner until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.</li> <li>◆ Reclaimed HCFC can be purchased and used for service and maintenance of <u>any existing</u> RAC equipment until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What do I do with unwanted HCFC recovered<sup>2</sup> from equipment?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ It is illegal to vent unwanted refrigerant. It must be recovered<sup>2</sup> by a qualified engineer<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>◆ After recovery, if not returned to the system, it should be handled in accordance with hazardous waste regulations and returned for disposal or reclaim.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Virgin refrigerant is a product manufactured to an internationally agreed standard and specification (ARI 700)

<sup>2</sup> Recovered refrigerant is a product removed from a system with NO basic cleaning. This material should be treated as hazardous waste at all times, and can only be returned to the system from which it was removed or stored before disposal.

<sup>3</sup> The qualification required is a certificate as defined in the GB Ozone Regulations (S.I. 216 2009) i.e. City & Guilds 2078 or 2079 (Category I or II); CITB J01 or J11 or J12.



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### **Are there any other new requirements related to HCFCs since the new Ozone Regulation came into force?**

- ◆ All equipment to which recycled or reclaimed HCFCs have been added needs to be labelled to show the total refrigerant charge and the type of HCFC contained.
- ◆ The leak checking frequencies are now the same as for F gases, so equipment containing 3-30 kg requires an annual leak check, 30-300 kg a six monthly leak check and over 300 kg a three monthly leak check. For HCFC's it is not mandatory to fit automatic leak detection.
- ◆ Any detected leakage must be repaired as soon as possible and in any event within 14 days. The equipment /system must be checked for leakage within 1 month after a leak has been repaired to ensure that the repair has been effective.
- ◆ For all equipment, that contains 3 kg or more of an HCFC refrigerant, records in a similar format to those required for the EC F gas Regulation now need to be kept.
- ◆ For all sizes of HCFC equipment records need to be kept when recycled or reclaimed refrigerants are used to service or maintain equipment. The record needs to show the source of recycled HCFCs or supplier of reclaimed HCFCs.

This document has been prepared by the British Refrigeration Association (BRA) and F-Gas Support. For further information on the EU Ozone Regulation please refer to F-Gas Support guidance document RAC 8 (download from F-Gas Support website [www.defra.gov.uk/fgas](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fgas)).

**For further advice on replacement alternatives please contact your refrigerant supplier or contractor.**



### **How to Contact F-Gas Support:**

**Telephone Help Line:** 0161 874 3663 **Website:** [www.defra.gov.uk/fgas](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fgas)

**Email:** [fgas-support@enviros.com](mailto:fgas-support@enviros.com)

**Post:** F-Gas Support, P O Box 481, Salford, M50 3UD

**FETA** incorporating BRA

**Telephone:** 0118 940 3416

**Website:** [www.feta.co.uk](http://www.feta.co.uk)

**Email:** [info@feta.co.uk](mailto:info@feta.co.uk)

**Office:** 2 Waltham Court, Milley Lane, Hare Hatch, READING RG10 9TH

This document has been prepared by BRA and 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 SKM Enviros.