



**Minutes of the meeting of the HEVAC Air Conditioning Group  
on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**Bold** indicates online attendee.

David	Sowden	Chair	Chemours
<b>Arthur</b>	<b>Bowles</b>		<b>Airedale International Air Conditioning</b>
Graham	Wright		Consultant
Chris	Taylor-Hamblin		Daikin
<b>Dyffyd</b>	<b>Goode</b>		<b>Fujitsu</b>
<b>Martyn</b>	<b>Ives</b>		<b>Fujitsu</b>
<b>Dave</b>	<b>Jones</b>		<b>Mitsubishi Electric</b>
Mirko	Bortoloso		Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
Lesley	Carrington		Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
<b>Alan</b>	<b>Green</b>		<b>TROX UK Ltd</b>
<b>Shakil</b>	<b>Mughal</b>		<b>Weatherite Air Conditioning Limited</b>
Chris	Yates		FETA
Michael	Duggan	Technical Secretary	FETA
Martyn	Cooper	Group Secretary	FETA

**1 Welcome and introducing any new members or guests.**

David Sowden, as the new group Chair, asked members to introduce themselves.

**2 FETA Competition Law Guidelines**

Accepting the invitation or attending the meeting will be taken as your acknowledgement that you abide by the *FETA Competition Law Guidelines* and the *Guidelines to FETA committee procedures* which are available on [FETA Competition Law and Committee Guidelines](#)

**3 Minutes from meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes were approved.

**Technical items**

**4 Regulations and standards**

**4.1 F-Gas Regulations**

CY shared some slides covering the working group which consists of presidents and vice-presidents from HEVAC and BRA and Harriot from the lobbying firm.

The content of the slides is covered below, and includes Assumptions, the FETA position and Activity.

## Assumptions

- January 2025 - Implementation of Primary legislation for F-Gas Regulation, almost certainly through the Climate Change Act
- January 2025 onwards - Roll out of Secondary legislation – timescales for roll out not known at this stage but likely to require further political activity to influence the outcome.
- Legislation laid before Parliament – June 2024
- Legislation to be finalized by DEFRA – April - June 2024
- Consultation by DEFRA – Q1 2024 – may not be 12 weeks.
- General Election likely to be held in Autumn 2024 – although if held earlier, this would affect the timing of legislation.

## FETA Position

- Given this is the first time MPs are voting on the F-Gas Regulation, much activity is or will be put in place by various groups to influence the outcome of the consultations and final regulation.
- FETA is funding political advocacy to support its plans to influence the outcome of the consultation process and the drafting of the regulation. A number of questions have been raised in the Lords and the Commons.
- We are conscious that we need to communicate clearly on a technical subject to a non-technical audience, which so far looks to have been achieved.
- The Group recognises that it needs facts and case studies to back up its position if it is going to build a strong position.
- Need to be able to challenge the NGOs. Industry agrees with where we need to get to but doing it too quickly will have implications for safety.
- End User feedback is seen to be a critical part of the information gathering process.

## Activity

- Working Group meets every fortnight.
  - Meeting with DEFRA F-Gas team every two months
  - Met with the Association of Convenience Stores
  - Regular meetings with the Climate Change Committee F-Gas lead
  - Letters for members to be sent to local MPs.
  - FETA is planning to run a webinar with DEFRA during the consultation.
  - Updating members – CY is including updates in the weekly newsletters he is circulating.
- Update on EU and UK review processes

## UK F-Gas Regulations Consultation

The programme of contacting Parliamentarians started on Tuesday 12th December which has so far resulted in a meeting in January with an influential Tory MP plus a series of questions being raised in the house covering:

1. To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the EU's F gas regulation review; and whether they intend to keep alignment with the EU. Asked 18 December 2023.
2. To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of products where there are no viable alternatives to using F gases. Asked 18 December 2023.
3. To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the F gas consultation allows industry sufficient time to carry out safety checks on alternative gases. Asked 18 December 2023.

4. To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they plan to have with manufacturers from the heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning industries on the use of F gases. Asked 18 December 2023.
5. To ask His Majesty's Government what their proposed timescale for the consultation and review of F gas regulation is. Asked 18 December 2023.

The above have been answered., with the same comment from DEFRA.

“We undertook a joint review of the GB F gas Regulation and published our assessment report in December 2022 (available online). We are now in the process of developing policy proposals for reform and intend to consult on these in due course.”

We are also due to have additional questions raised in the House of Lords during January which we are awaiting confirmation on.

- FETA lobbying activity (email from Chris Yates on 28 Dec 2023)

#### Political Advocacy

Chris Yates and Neil Roberts met with Mark Pawsey MP at Portcullis House on 16 January to discuss the upcoming F-Gas regulation consultation.

Discussion was on the need for a viable timescale for industry in the F Gas Regulation Review and FETA explained the timescale needs to be challenging but not to the point of difficulty. We discussed the impact the F Gas review would have on the move to Net Zero, who manufacturers F Gases, leakage, and energy efficiency.

Mark Pawsey agreed to an oral Parliamentary Question on the timing of the F Gas consultation. This will now be written due to diary clash for the oral question.

#### 4.2 Ecodesign

CY updated on CE marking and the UKCA mark. We have received a response from the Secretary of State via our local MP, Theresa May (**copy attached**).

Chris Taylor-Hamblin noted that uncertainty is a major issue surrounding this topic. Mirko Bortoloso asked about the timeline for this, and how hazardous products should be treated.

**Action: FETA to check this with appropriate Government department.**

#### 4.3 Construction Products Regulation

The EU has recently revised the CP Regulations for the EU.

The European Commission's revision to the EU CPR (the revised CPR) aims to modernise the existing rules in order to: Ensure that the design and manufacture of new construction products promote sustainability, durability, and recyclability.

C T-H noted that an upcoming vote on the subject in the EU could lead to divergence between EU and UK.

#### 4.4 Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

**Europe:** The EU carried out a consultation on the impact of phasing out PFAS which generated over 5000 comments and seen as having a significant impact on energy efficient heating and cooling solutions for domestic, industrial, commercial, and medicinal applications, as well as many others.

**UK:** Likely to take a much more pragmatic approach to how it deals with PFAS. Details awaited.

The PFAS Summary Document can be found under “Publications” on <https://www.feta.co.uk/associations/bra/about-bra>.

Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) is one of a group of thousands of substances collectively called poly- and per-fluorinated substances (PFAS), which are highly persistent in the environment. As a group they are being considered under a risk management options analysis under UK chemical regulation (UK REACH). The Environment Agency (EA) also considers TFA as part of its priority and early warning system for chemicals.

The EFCTC (European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee) website has good documents on PFAS - [www.fluorocarbons.org/](http://www.fluorocarbons.org/)

#### **4.5 Standards committee updates from A/C Group delegates**

An update on current and planned work in standards committees

*RHE/17      Testing of air conditioning units      Rodney Ayre / Graham Wright*

*RHE/18      Safety of refrigerants*

A proposal was put forward on increasing charge sizes of hydrocarbons. RHE/18 was given just 2 weeks to review this. FETA submitted a comment asking for more time to consider.

*CPL/61/4      Room air-conditioners      Rodney Ayre / Stephen Benton (BRA) / Martyn Cooper / David Sowden / Graham Wright*

*CEN/TC 156 Ventilation in Buildings      Alan Green*

Several standards have gone through their 5-year systematic reviews and have all been confirmed for a further 5 years.

The damper standard is being revised.

The Air Distribution Group in HEVAC is introducing a market statistics survey amongst both members and non-members.

Graham Wright announced that he would now wish to withdraw from the BSI committees where he represents this HEVAC Group. MD will write to BSI advising them of the change.

### **Plenary items**

#### **5 HPA update**

The group was updated on HPA activities. The HPA is very active, and now has various working groups. It now has 69 members.

#### **6 Consultations**

Part L consultation due to start 19 December 2023 for a 12-week consultation.  
(The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation)

Chris Yates wrote to all members on 13 December following the Government’s announcement that Government has finally published the long-awaited [consultation on Future homes & Buildings Standards](#) on changes to Part 6, Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for dwellings and non-

domestic buildings and seeking evidence on Part O. This consultation closes at **11:59pm on 6 March 2024**.

The majority of this consultation has regard to new homes and non-domestic buildings. A small number of sections are also relevant to existing buildings. These are:

- Material Change of Use
- Some elements of Updated Guidance and Minimum Standards
- Real-world performance of homes: changes to Approved Document L, Volume 1: Dwellings and Approved Document F, Volume 1: Dwellings to improve the commissioning of fixed building services in new and existing homes.
- Part O (Call for Evidence)

In his 13 Dec email, CY attached a summary of the proposals for ease of reference and advised that FETA will liaise with member groups over the consultation and how we respond.

Alan Green had done a comparison of the 2019 and the proposed 2024 revision. Alan's assessment is that the 2024 revision is generally good and is an improvement on the existing publication.

"Most of the proposed changes are editorial and do not affect the technical content apart from Table 6.9

The notes at the bottom item 4

There has been a change to the rating weighted average is calculated using the following formula.

Currently it is:

The rating weighted average is calculated using the formula.

$$[(P_{mains,1} \times SFP_1) + (P_{mains,2} \times SFP_2) + (P_{mains,3} \times SFP_3) + \dots]$$

$$(P_{mains,1} + P_{mains,2} + P_{mains,3} + \dots)$$

where  $P_{mains}$  is useful power supplied from the mains in W.

The new rating weighted average is calculated using the following formula:

$$[(P_{mains,1} + P_{mains,2} + P_{mains,3} + \dots)]$$

$$(\text{Flow rate}_1 + \text{Flow rate}_2 + \text{Flow rate}_3 + \dots)$$

The new averaging process is in my opinion is much better".

The Home Energy Model, or HEM, is to be introduced in the UK to replace the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). A question FETA may raise is "If HEMS doesn't happen, will SAP continue.

## 7 UK/EU trade

Discussion on difficulties already identified.

- schedule on the UK-CA marking and
- Podcast for members

