

F-Gas regulations guide – what you need to know.

F-gases (Fluorinated gases) are a common substitute for a range of man-made ozone-depleting gases, (Such as R22, which was banned back in 2015). They may not damage the ozone layer, but they are powerful greenhouse gases, contributing to global warming.

As a result, EU Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases has been introduced to combat climate change and reduce F-gas emissions.

Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 introduced a quota system to control and limit the manufacture and import of F-gases in the EU and requires reporting of production, import, export and destruction of F-gases via a central EU portal. The quota system is the reason behind the substantial price increases that are taking place within the refrigerant market, and also the driving force behind statutory leak testing of systems containing F-gasses.

Who Is Affected by Regulation (EU) No 517/2014?

The regulation has implications for any company or individual that manufactures, uses or services equipment that contains F-gases, such as refrigeration and air conditioning systems.

This includes end users, people who are responsible for air conditioning systems in offices, shops etc.

What do I need to do?

- You will have to keep records if your business uses quantities of F gas over 4.99 Tonnes CO₂ (equivalent). The thresholds determining duty under the F-Gas regulations are expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent. This is calculated using the global warming potential of the F-gas and the system refrigerant charge.
- In essence, you're responsible for stopping/minimizing leaks from your equipment. This is achieved by having your equipment leak checked at the required interval, and for very large systems, adding mandatory leak detection systems. Leak testing must be carried out by a person that is qualified to do so, working under an F-Gas certification scheme. The regulation sets out the following minimum requirements for leak testing:

Maximum Interval between leak checks

No requirements

1 Year

6 months

3 months

*Plus add electronic leak detection system

CO₂ (tonnes)

< 5

5

50

500 and greater*

- Label any new equipment that contains F gases
- The service company that you use must be certified to handle F-gases and their staff must have F gas qualifications

How can ITEC help?

ITEC are a REFCOM F-Gas certified company with Category 1 certified engineers. We can ensure that record keeping and leak testing is carried out to enable clients to meet legal requirements and provide the assistance needed to ensure compliance with the F-Gas regulations.

It is common to incorporate statutory F-gas leak testing into planned maintenance visits.

Regular maintenance helps keep your system performing at its optimum, minimising running costs, and in many cases giving early warning of upcoming running problems and possible failure.

If you are unsure about your obligations under the F-Gas regulations, why not give us a call. We would be pleased to hear from you!