

4th April 2008

Dear Customer,

In his capacity as Chairman of the ACRIB F-Gas implementation Group, Space Air's Marketing & Business Development Manager Mike Nankivell has authorised the release of this F Gas Regulation update regarding new training and certification requirements. Additional information will follow in part 2.

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F Gas Refrigerant Training – Part 1



Under the guidance of the European Commission, the new F Gas Handling training certification will be brought into line across Europe, with UK qualifications being overseen by ACRIB. (full details to be made available this summer).

The aim of the new qualification - to cover wider instruction of refrigerant handling theory and practice with regard to leak checking and leak prevention.



FOUR CATEGORIES OF CERTIFICATION

- **Category I** - to carry out all activities on all stationary R&AC and heat pumps (leak checking, recovery, installation or service and maintenance)
- **Category II** - to carry out these activities in equipment with a charge of less than 3kg, (6kg if hermetically sealed and labelled)
- **Category III** - refrigerant recovery activity only
- **Category IV** - leak checking only

NB: Most installation, service and maintenance engineers will need a category 1 Certificate as this will cover all activities.

The amount of training required to pass the assessment will vary according to the individual's knowledge, expertise and current qualifications.

Colleges and registered centres will be invited to apply to deliver the update Certificates and will begin training during the summer of 2008. Once fully informed, they will be able to provide the relevant advice on training requirements for any existing workforce.

Apprentices and trainees already enrolled on S/NVQ training can only work under supervision of a qualified person and are required to obtain an F Gas certificate within two years.

continued over leaf

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Key Dates

From July 2007 - Equipment operators must use only F Gas certified personnel to handle F gas refrigerants.

From February 2008 - UK legislation now in force to ensure equipment operators use C&G 2078/CITB qualified personnel until the new certificates are available.

Spring 2008 - DEFRA draft legislation due out on F Gas training and certification in the UK.

From July 2009 - Only companies with certified personnel can take delivery of HFC's.

By July 2011 - latest possible date by which everyone will need to have gained their update Certificate - the exact date will be confirmed in the DEFRA draft legislation being issued this Spring.

The new Qualifications will become legally mandatory in order to work with or handle F Gas refrigerants throughout Europe.

A national register of companies who employ certified personnel will be established by DEFRA as part of the F Gas Regulation. DEFRA is consulting on options for this registration authority. REFCOM currently offers a voluntary register of companies along similar lines (www.refcom.co.uk)

What do you need to do?

Now - If you carry out work described in category i and/or ii overleaf but do **NOT** have an existing refrigerant handling qualification (C&G 2078 or CITB) you must obtain this now. It is illegal to handle HFC or HCFC refrigerant unless you hold one of these qualifications.

From June - Start looking out for details of the refrigerant handling certification update and begin preparing for the new F Gas qualification.

From July - Start contacting your local training providers to find out when you can register for the update.

Deadline For Action - the latest date by which you must have undertaken the assessment and obtained the new qualification is July 2011 - but don't leave this to the last minute and risk not being able to work legally.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND

On training updates www.acrib.org.uk

On regulations www.defra.gov.uk/fgas

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