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Dear Customer,

In Part 2 of our update we outline the theory and practical tests that the new F Gas qualification will involve.

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F Gas Refrigerant Training – Part 2



ACRIB
AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION INDUSTRY BOARD

The F Gas certification update will include practical assessments and a multiple choice examination that will test an individual's knowledge of theory principles. The theory test is likely to be available on line from training centres.

The possible areas that will be covered in the test are as follows.

New certification guidelines

THEORY TEST

- Basic thermodynamics
- Basic refrigeration cycle
- Identifying condition and state of refrigerant
- Determining operating conditions and efficiency
- Monitoring system performance for indications of refrigerant leakage
- Understanding of environmental impact of F Gases
- Knowledge of equipment record keeping requirements
- Knowledge of key components and risk of leakage associated with them

The practical test will be similar to existing refrigerant handling assessments but will incorporate some extra tasks. It will be carried out on a standard test rig and assessed on a standard marking sheet:

PRACTICAL TEST

- Brazing pipe jointing as used to install components
- Pressure Testing
- Charging with refrigerant
- Inspecting for leaks, Rectifying and Re-checking
- Connecting and disconnecting Gauges
- Recovery of refrigerant

Successful candidates will be issued with a Certificate stating which Category and type of work they can carry out. The Certificate may be withdrawn or suspended if necessary and end users or employers will be able to verify them through an online database. Training centres will be able to register to deliver the training during the summer of 2008.

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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 ACRIB F gas implementation Group, chaired by Space Air's Mike Nankivell, managed to convince DEFRA that more time was needed to enable all relevant UK R and A/C engineers to obtain the new qualification/certification.

It has been agreed that the current City and Guilds 2078 or CITB equivalent will satisfy the minimum requirement of the F Gas regulation until July 2011. After which the new qualification will be the legal minimum and have mutual recognition in all member states of the European Community.

It is anticipated that demand for the new qualification will initially exceed the capacity of the various colleges and registered training centres. Space Air recommends that you establish how many engineers you employ that need to sit the new exams and plan to spread their training over the available months up to July 2011. For example if you employ 9 engineers plan to have 3 trained in 2008/2009, 3 in 2009/2010 and 3 in 2010/2011.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND

On training updates www.acrib.org.uk

On regulations www.defra.gov.uk/fgas

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