



F Gas regulation

F Gas regulations—who does it apply to?

Anyone who owns and operates equipment that contains refrigeration gases such as air conditioning or heat pumps will be required to comply with the F Gas regulations.

What is F Gas regulation according to DEFRA?

F gases are a family of gases similar to hydrocarbons with fluorine replacing some hydrogen atoms. It was only recently discovered that hydro-fluorocarbons (HFC) are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming if released into the atmosphere. With this in mind the EU Ozone regulations of 2000 set a timescale to phase out CFC's and HFC's. They also introduced strict inspection rules for all operators of such refrigeration equipment.

The F Gas legislation came into effect in July 2007 and includes the containment of gas recovery and record keeping.

What does this mean for businesses and organisations?

Gases such as R22 are deemed as to harmful to the atmosphere. With targets to reduce carbon emissions and improve climate change the government decided to ban the production of this harmful gas. If you have a R22 unit please see our R22 fact sheet for helpful tips and information on the switch over.

The F Gas legislation also introduced the legal requirement to have your unit checked to see if it omitting any refrigerant gasses. This again is to help reduce carbon emissions within the UK. Please see overleaf for the current legal requirements.

Under the EPBD (Energy Performance Buildings Directive) you may also require a air conditioning inspection. This is currently for operators that have a system over 250kw and needs to be carried out by a qualified low carbon consultant. However operators with 12kw and above will also need to have this in place by Jan 2011.

Although only 3% of England and Wales businesses have had a compliant air conditioning inspection, there is a benefit to having this carried out. The inspection is essentially a health check on your unit, as well as looking at its efficiency, and how energy savings could be made. Please see our fact sheet on air Conditioning.



FACT SHEET 1

Who is responsible?

It is the operator of the equipment that is responsible for ensuring that they comply with the F Gas regulation. This regulation defines the operator as “the natural or legal person exercising actual power over the technical functioning of the equipment and systems.”

The frequency of an F Gas inspection depends upon the amount of refrigeration in each system. Please see the current legal requirements (as at May 2009).

- ◆ Systems with 3kg – 30kg require annual inspection.
- ◆ Systems with 31kg – 300kg require a six monthly checks
- ◆ Systems over 300kg require quarterly checks and a leak detection system fitted

How can I tell how much refrigerant I have in my system?

Below we have put a rough guide line together. If you would like a quotation or require to know about how much gas is in your system please call our sales team

- ◆ 3kg—a small multi split system or one large unit
- ◆ Below 30kg—a VRV system with 5-7 indoor units
- ◆ Above 30kg—10indoor units plus or chiller

Why should I be compliant?

CIBSE has launched the ‘non compliance costs’ campaign which focuses on the benefits of complying with the regulations.

It costs the environment, it will cost the UK any chance of meeting the emissions targets and it costs non complying companies ho are missing out on a real opportunity to increase their profits.”

www.cibse.org/noncompliancecosts



F Gas leaks and repairs

If during a service or maintenance a gas leak is to be found on a air conditioning system, new F Gas legislation states that the operator must fix the unit 'as soon as possible or in any event within 14 days.' The air conditioning company who carries out the repair also has a duty under the legislation to check the repair at a later date (normally 30 days after the repair.) Although the main responsibility still lays with the operator/owner.

F Gas company certificate

It is a legal requirement for companies and employees who work with refrigerant gas have to legally have a company certificate. Make sure your unit is serviced by a company that is registered. DX Electricas' certificate number is Ref 1003305. We are also a registered Hazardous waste carrier. Copies of both certificates are available upon request.

Record keeping

DX Electrica always provides a copy of the maintenance or service sheet, before leaving site. This sheet is proof that you unit has been properly checked and is compliant with F Gas. The local authority is the regulator for this legislation and you may be asked to provide proof at a later date.

Penalty

Failure to comply with the legislation could result in a unlimited fine and prosecution. For more information and costs (service costs start from just £195),

Please don't hesitate to contact our sales team info@dxelectrica.net

