

THE OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (QUALIFICATIONS) REGULATIONS - 2006

This is a UK regulation to set mandatory minimum qualifications for handlers of ozone depleting substances as required by EC Regulation 2037/2000. It is currently at the consultation stage which ends on 14th February and DEFRA would like to bring the regulation into force during June 2006.

The main objective of the regulation is to prevent and reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances that deplete the Earth's ozone layer ahead of their eventual phase out. It will do this by setting minimum qualification levels for those handling these products.

The relevant parts affecting the refrigeration and air conditioning industry can be summarised below.

Proposed minimum qualifications

City and Guilds Certificate in Handling Refrigerants Scheme 2078

Or

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Safe Handling of Refrigerants Reference 206710

Who do they apply to ?

Anyone servicing or maintaining refrigeration and /or air conditioning equipment containing ozone depleting substances and anyone recovering, decommissioning or disposing of equipment ozone depleting substances.

It is the responsibility of an employer to ensure that such work is only given to suitably qualified personnel.

Which Refrigerants ?

CFCs – R11, R12, R13, R113, R114, R500, R502, R503

HCFCs – R22, R123, R124, R141b, R142b

Blends containing HCFCs – R401A, R401B, R401C, R402A, R402B, R403A, R403B, R405A, R406A, R408A, R409A, R409B, R411A, R411B, R412A, R414A, R414B, R416A, R509A

Plus any others not listed above that contain a CFC or HCFC.

Exemptions

Anyone not qualified to carry out work can do so if;

They are supervised by a competent person.

Or they can show they are working towards a qualification.

Anyone who can show they have done relevant work prior to the regulation entering into force can continue to do so until December 2006.

It is the employer's obligation to ensure this is complied with.

Policing

Authorised persons will be appointed to administer and enforce the regulations. These authorised persons can enter premises, make inquiries and ask to see records.

Penalties

Individuals and companies can be fined on conviction of any offence under the regulations.

Timetable

Once the consultation period is over and replies published, the aim is to implement the regulation during June 2006.

Note

- a) The legislation will apply to England, Wales and Scotland. It does not extend to Northern Ireland, where the Department of the Environment will prepare its own regulations.
- b) City and Guilds Certificate in Handling Refrigerants Scheme 2077 is not considered sufficient as it does not cover blends.

Consultation Paper

Electronic copies are available from DEFRA on their web-site www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm
Responses need to be returned by 14th February 2006.

Further Information

For further information on this and other legislation issues relating to refrigerants such as F-Gas or Hazardous Waste please contact IDS Refrigeration.

Please note the information above is that currently available and is intended as a summary only. It is given to the best of our knowledge.

Further updates will be produced as and when accurate information becomes known.

24th January 2006