

THE OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (QUALIFICATIONS) REGULATIONS - 2006

This is a UK statutory instrument (2006 No. 1520) that has set mandatory minimum training qualifications for handlers of ozone depleting substances as required by EC Regulation 2037/2000.

The regulation entered into force on 10th July 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, by ensuring only those with appropriate training and qualifications handle these products.

As of 10th July 2006 all persons working on air conditioning, refrigeration or heat pump systems using CFCs or HCFCs must have the relevant qualifications.

Who do they apply to?

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

No person may carry out relevant work unless they are suitably qualified to do so. It is the responsibility of an employer to ensure that such work is only given to suitably qualified personnel.

Minimum qualifications required

- City and Guilds Certificate in Handling Refrigerants Scheme 2078
- Or
- Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Safe Handling of Refrigerants Reference 206710

Persons not having the above qualifications are deemed unqualified and can only work on systems if they are supervised by a qualified competent person and they can show they are working towards a qualification.

Transitional Provision

An experienced person who carried out relevant work prior to 10th July 2006, but has not obtained the above qualifications, can continue to do so until 9th April 2007. Thereafter, they must have the relevant qualifications to comply with this legislation.

Competency

It is the employer's obligation to ensure that relevant work is carried out only by a person competent to do so.

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.

Enforcement

In relation to England and Wales, the Secretary of State or the Environment Agency may appoint Authorised persons for the purpose of enforcing these regulations. Whilst in Scotland, it is the Scottish Ministers or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

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.

Notes

a) The legislation applies 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.

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.

31st July 2006