

F GAS PYRAMID – UK INPUT

LEVEL	UK ACTION
F Gas Regulation	Transcribed into UK law by the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulation 2009.
Commission Regulations	As Above
Member states implementation	Effective from 4 July 2009
Certification bodies	DEFRA is the UK government department responsible for this legislation and they have nominated 3 companies as Certification Bodies to issue certificates to companies (not individuals) that employ appropriately qualified craftsmen. Interim certificates had to be claimed/issued by 4 July 2009 and full certificates must be obtained by July 2011. The Certification Bodies are : REFCOM, Quidos and Bureau Veritas,
Evaluation bodies	The regulations are enforced by local authorities. DEFRA has funded a help-line service (known as F Gas Support) to assist anyone with a query on the regulation. DEFRA holds regular stakeholder meetings for the RAC industry to discuss aspects of the regulation.
Training institutes	RAC training in UK is provided by colleges of further education and by commercial training companies. The additional training and assessment required by the F Gas Regulation over and above national vocational qualifications is achieved by 2 new qualifications: Either : City & Guilds 2079, Or : CITB J11-14 These can take up to 5 days to achieve.
Certified companies	These are companies that install, maintain or service stationary refrigeration, air-conditioning or heat pump equipment containing F Gases. Generally referred to as RAC contractors, they are all SMEs (even the largest employs less than 600 craftsmen). By September 2009, nearly 3,400 companies had been issued with interim or full certificates.
Certified persons	There is no mandatory register of RAC craftsmen in UK. DEFRA did not interpret the F Gas Regulation as requiring individuals to face compulsory registration. There is a voluntary ACRIB register for qualified craftsmen. Nevertheless, the UK regulation does specify that individuals must satisfy the training/assessment criteria of the EC regulation in order to work on F Gas equipment, <u>BUT</u> there is no central record of such people.

Operations	<p>Although much of the responsibility for complying with the regulation is placed on the operator, the diversity of such people from owners of small offices through shopping malls to supermarkets, makes it difficult to assess how aware they are of their obligations. The emphasis of compliance has been placed on the RAC contractors and craftsmen. DEFRA have placed priority on investigating supermarkets to assess awareness of operator liabilities in the belief that they are major users/emitters of HFC refrigerants.</p>
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