

R22 Legislation

Since 1st January 2015, it has been illegal to use R22 refrigerant to maintain or repair your refrigeration unit.

While it is still legal to operate your system, the legislation makes it illegal to use additional R22 gas in maintenance and repairs. That means if you run into a problem, it is likely to be impossible to repair.

What is the R22 Legislation?

The EC Ozone Regulation (No. 1005/2009) was introduced to phase out HCFCs, including R22 gas, used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Since 1st January 2015, it has been illegal to use virgin, recycled and reclaimed R22 to maintain or repair refrigeration equipment.

R22 Phase Out Timeline

- 1st January 2004: HCFCs, including R22 refrigerant, was banned for use in new air conditioning /refrigeration systems throughout the EU
- 1st January 2010: Virgin R22 refrigerant was banned for use in maintenance and repairs
- 1st January 2015: All R22, including recycled and reclaimed refrigerant, will be banned for use in maintenance and repairs

What are the Reasons for the R22 Legislation?

R22 gas is an HCFC, or hydrochlorofluorocarbon, commonly used in air conditioning, process cooling and industrial refrigeration. It has been banned for use in new equipment in the UK since 2004.

The ban is in place because HCFCs are ozone-depleting substances. This means that when they're released into the air they react with and damage the ozone layer. This results in greater UV radiation reaching the earth's surface, causing wide-ranging environmental effects. These include rises in skin cancer, cataracts and sunburn, smaller and lower quality crop yields and destructive changes to ecosystems.

In accordance with the Montreal Protocol and due to their detrimental impact on the environment, R22 and other ozone-depleting substances are being phased out globally. Modern refrigerants, such as the industry standard R-410A, which do not damage the ozone layer, are now being used in their place.

There are more F-Gas regulations coming into force in the EU, which will further limit the use of HFCs in refrigeration by 2030. These include R404A, R422A, R422D and R507, which will be gradually phased out to reduce emissions. The aim is to reduce their usage to around a fifth of current levels, shifting to climate-friendly technology wherever possible.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:286:0001:0030:EN:PDF>