

Ozone regulations EC No 2037/2000

For operators of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment systems, there are two key clauses that are already in effect, these are:

- The use of CFCs for plant maintenance was banned in 2000. Effectively this meant that all industrial plant using CFCs had to be replaced by the end of 2000.
- The use of HCFCs (including R22) in new refrigeration systems was banned between 2000 and 2004. This means that most R22 refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment currently in use is at least 5 years old, with the use of R22 refrigerant being subject to phase out and replacement with non Ozone depleting gas substitutes.

Four further clauses in the regulation affect the use of existing HCFC systems. These are:

- Use of virgin HCFCs for maintenance will be banned from December 31st 2009.
- The quantity of virgin HCFCs that can be sold in the EU is restricted. For example, in 2008 the amount available for sale will only be 25% of that available in 2001.
- Use of recycled HCFCs for maintenance will be banned from December 31st 2014. This date is subject to review to be completed in 2008. This means that recycled HCFCs may be phased out earlier than the end of 2014.
- Operators of HCFCs refrigeration systems must take "all precautionary measures practicable" to prevent leakages. Any system containing more than 3kg of HCFC refrigerant must be checked annually for leakage by suitably qualified personnel. Any HCFC refrigerant removed from a system during maintenance or at the end of life must be properly recovered for re-use, recycling, or destruction.

Recommendations for users of R22 and other HCFCs.

- Start planning for HCFC and R22 phase out now. This will ensure you have time to consider the most appropriate options and will enable you to minimise the cost implications. It will also



give you time to properly budget for any investments required.

- Ensure you are complying with the leakage and recovery obligations (see .above) If you are thinking of replacing your air-conditioning or refrigeration equipment, then please also read our section on [Enhanced Capital Allowances](#).