

Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) obligations

Regulation (EU) No 517/2014

June 2015

Important information for F-gas technicians and end-users in the MAC sector

Recent changes

Since 2009: Technicians who recover F-gas from Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) systems of cars and light vehicles (e.g. vans lighter than 3.5 tonnes) have been legally required to hold a personnel qualification in refrigerant recovery. Failure to hold the appropriate qualification for this activity is an offence.



NEW from 01 January 2015: Any person purchasing F-gas for use in a MAC system must prove to the person they are purchasing from that the technician who will use the gas holds a recovery qualification. It is an offence to sell F-gas for use by an unqualified technician.

What this means for you

If you work for a business which services the MAC systems of cars and/or light vehicles, you need to ensure that any technicians who recover F-gas from a MAC system hold a suitable qualification in refrigerant recovery; otherwise you are breaking the law. See the *Purchasing F-gas* section below for how to do this.

You are no longer allowed to purchase F-gas without demonstrating that it will be used by a qualified technician. This will prevent 'over-the-counter' purchases of F-gas if you cannot provide evidence of qualification.

Qualifications needed

The qualifications in *Regulation (EC) 307/2008* set-out the training requirements to recover F-gas from the MAC systems in cars and light vehicles. Existing Level 3 qualifications achieved prior to 2015 are still valid. These are listed in information sheet *IS 22 Training and Certification Mobile Air-Conditioning* - see *Further information* below.

Specific F-gas MAC training course details can be found on the websites of the following approved awarding bodies:

- City and Guilds of London Institute - www.cityandguilds.com
- The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) - www.theimi.org.uk
- IMI Awards - www.imiawards.org.uk
- The Institute of Road Transport Engineers (Irtec) – no qualifications currently available

Purchasing F-gas

Refrigerant wholesalers will need you to prove that your company employs qualified MAC technicians when you buy F-gas, otherwise your F-gas purchase will be refused.

When setting-up an account with your supplier, you may be asked to provide training certificate details and sign a declaration that your qualifications are valid on a 'letter of assurance' document. This is explained fully in information sheet *IS 19 Customer Screening* - see *Further information* below.

Compliance monitoring

The Environment Agency will be making routine checks of MAC service centres to ensure that technicians are suitably qualified. Those found to be operating illegally will face regulatory action which may include prosecution.

If you are concerned that you may not hold suitable qualifications, you should enrol on an appropriate course without delay. The Environment Agency's F-gas Support Helpdesk can give you further advice on what is required.

Further information

New Defra approved guidance relating to F-gas in the MAC sector is available on the www.GOV.UK.

- For MAC search 'F-gas in cars'.
- For more general guidance search 'F-gas Regulations'.

Further Defra approved guidance is available at: <http://www.gluckmanconsulting.com>. See information sheets:

- [IS 6 Mobile Air-Conditioning](#)
- [IS 19 Customer Screening](#)
- [IS 22 Training and Certification Mobile Air-Conditioning](#)

The European F-gas Regulations (EC) No 517/2014 can be found in full here: www.eur-lex.europa.eu by searching '517/2014'

The Pursuant European F-gas Regulation (EC) 307/2008 on the training requirements regarding MAC can be found here: www.eur-lex.europa.eu by searching '307/2008'

The UK F-gas Regulations 2015 (No. 310) can be found in full here: www.legislation.gov.uk by searching number '310'