

Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) obligations

Regulation (EU) No 517/2014

June 2015

Important information for F-gas wholesalers and retailers 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: Wholesalers and retailers of F-gas for use in MAC systems must have proof 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 your business sells F-gas refrigerant for the service of MAC systems in cars and/or light vehicles, you must record the qualification details of your customer's technicians, otherwise you are breaking the law. See the *Selling F-gas* section below on how to do this.

You are no longer allowed to sell F-gas without receiving proof that it will be used by a qualified technician. This will prevent 'over-the-counter' purchases of F-gas to persons not qualified to use it.

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



Selling F-gas

MAC refrigerant wholesalers and retailers must record evidence that each customer employs a technician who holds an F-gas recovery qualification, otherwise sale must be refused.

You can fulfil this requirement by requesting that both existing and new account customers complete a 'letter of assurance'. This document records company details, technician names and certificate numbers. This is explained fully in information sheet *IS 19 Customer Screening* - see *Further information* below.

If you are a 'reseller' and supply F-gas to other retailers, you must also record these sales. Records must be kept for a minimum of five years.

Compliance monitoring

The Environment Agency will be making routine checks of MAC F-gas wholesalers and retailers to ensure that customer screening is taking place. Those found to be operating illegally will face regulatory action which may include prosecution.

If you are concerned that you may not hold appropriate customer records, you should put an appropriate screening procedure in place 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 at www.GOV.UK:

- For F-gas customer screening search 'F-gas wholesalers'.
- For more general guidance search 'F-gas Regulations'.

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

- [IS 18 F-gas Wholesalers](#)
- [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'