

ILLEGAL TRADING OF REFRIGERANTS



Purpose

With the EU F-Gas Regulation (Reg. No. 517/2014), national By-law on F-gas (published in the Official Journal No. 30291, dated 04/01/2018) and HFC phase down, the pressure on HFCs, particularly when they have a high global warming potential (GWP), has considerably increased. Refrigerants have become precious goods. They are essential for the safe and reliable operation of your business.

Risks

Risks of buying illegal refrigerant are high and range from hefty fines to risks for health and safety for installers and users.



Financial impact

High fines or even criminal prosecution.



Operational impact

Badly performing equipment if refrigerants do not comply with specifications (impurities, contamination with oil and other substances, etc.) leading to loss of capacity, reduced energy efficiency, higher operational cost, loss of performance due to equipment failures.



Business impact

Deterioration of relationship with customers or even loss of customers due to problems with the equipment and risk of closing businesses and reputational damage.



Health and Safety impact

Refrigerants fall under “dangerous substances” and need to be handled with care, even more so with the increased use of flammable and high-pressure gases. Refrigerants that do not comply with the gas producers' specifications or with the content indicated on the cylinders can pose a serious risk for the health and safety of installers and users.



Environmental impact

Illegal trade undermines the F-Gas Regulation's aim to phase down HFCs. Risks such as refrigerant leakage into the atmosphere increase even further with the use of inadequate cylinders, or illegal disposable cylinders which are not allowed to be produced/used in the EU according to regulations.

Example

A Chinese company was convicted in 2012 for selling counterfeit refrigerants using another company's logo. The person held responsible in the company was sentenced to three years imprisonment, three years of probation, a fine of £3,000, and his company was additionally fined £20,000 for selling counterfeit refrigerants using another company's logo.

4 Simple Steps to Ensure Your Refrigerants Are Legal

1

Purchase your refrigerant from a distributor registered to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

2

Don't buy refrigerants in disposable cylinders which are banned in the EU – their import into Turkey is banned since 4 January 2020

3

Avoid purchases from internet platforms

4

If the price by your supplier is unusually low compared to the usual price, be prepared to check for the other indicators below

How to Identify Illegal Refrigerants?

The followings are important indicators to identify illegal refrigerants.



Please note that while these general rules apply, compliance for your specific situation needs to be verified with your local authorities and regulations.

Refrigerant Cylinders

1

Watch out for disposable cylinders. They are banned for import into Turkey from 4 January 2020 and for sale from 1 January 2022.



Disposable cylinders have been banned in Europe since 2007. Cylinders must be able to be returned to the supplier.



They do not comply with ADR Transport Regulations for dangerous goods.



They do not comply with the provisions of the Regulation on Classification, Labeling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures published in Official Journal No. 28848 dated 11 December 2013.



They can contain chemical substances which are not registered under the EU REACH regulation.



SITUATION IN TURKEY

The By-law on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases, publishes by Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization in the Official Journal No. 30291, dated 4 January 2018, applies along with provisional Article (2).

Provisional Article (2)

(2) As of 2 (two) years after the publication date of this Regulation, the import of the disposable pressurized cylinders containing F-gases is prohibited.

(3) As of 1 January 2022, the place on the market of disposable pressurized cylinders containing F-gases is prohibited.

Refrigerant Cylinders

2

Refillable cylinder need to fulfill certain criteria



Refrigerant cylinders should be comply with the Regulation on Pressurized Equipment published in Official Journal No. 30349, dated 3/03/2018.



They need to be pressure-tested regularly and stamped accordingly – including the date of the next test.



The valves need to be stamped with the homologation number



SITUATION IN TURKEY

In Turkey, the Regulation on Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Substances and Mixtures published by Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 13 December 2014.



Disposable Cylinders

- No valve protector, collar and base
- Having Wide valve and filling inlet
- No refill

Refillable Cylinders

- Having valve protector, collar and base

Refrigerant Cylinders

3

Cylinders need to bear the following stamps and information



Labelled with the Pi (π) stamp



EN 13322-1: compliance with standard of design and construction



TPED approval



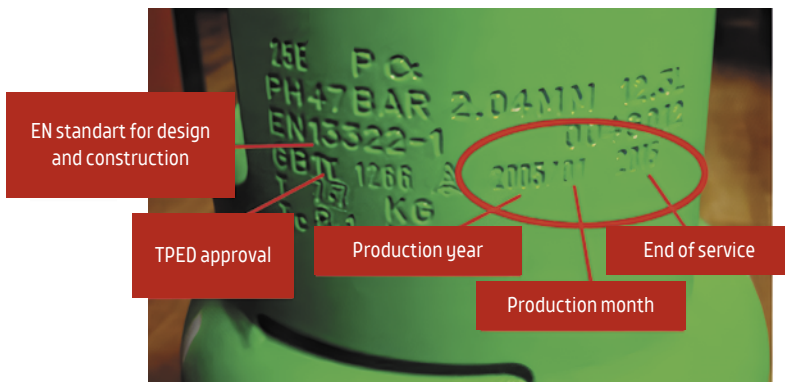
Compliance with ADR European Agreement on the international transport of dangerous goods



Year and month of production



Cylinders need to be periodically maintained/inspected in accordance with ADR provisions. The next inspection date must be marked on the cylinder.



Documentation – Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Any refrigerant delivery needs to be accompanied by the relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) issued by the gas producer/or supplier. Besides many other criteria, the SDS needs to contain the following mandatory information:

- Issued by the gas producer in your national language
- Clear indication of CAS number
- Clear indication of CE registration
- Clear indication of the producer including address and emergency number

Labelling

F-gas containing equipment/products cannot be placed on the market and be imported unless they are labeled correctly. All refrigerant cylinders need to be clearly labeled.

- 1 – Clear indication of the producer
- 2 – The statement "Contains fluorinated greenhouse gases"
- 3 – Industrial or chemical name of the fluorinated greenhouse gases and their amount in kilograms
- 4 – Number of tons of CO₂ equivalents of the fluorinated greenhouse gases
- 5 – The statement "Hermetically sealed," if the equipment is hermetically sealed
- 6 – The statement "Leakage rate of less than 0.1% per year," if the tested leakage rate of less than 0.1% per year is indicated in the warranty document of the electrical switchgear equipment containing sulphur hexafluoride
- 7 – The statement "Foam blown with fluorinated greenhouse gases," if fluorinated greenhouse gases were used as a blowing agent to produce foams, including foams applied to insulate the refrigeration, air conditioning or heat pump equipment prior to placing them in the market
- 8 – Precautionary statements in national language
- 9 – ADR Transport symbol and UN number

Marka / Ticari Logo Alanı

UN 3159
ADR Class: 2.2

1,1,1,2-TETRAFLUOROETHANE (R-134a)

DİKKATI
Zararlılık
H280 Basıncılı gaz içerir; ısıtıldığında patlayabilir.

Önlem
P410+P403 Güneş ışığından koruyun. İyi havalandırılmış bir alanda depolayın.

Üreticinin önerilerini okuyun ve takip edin. Güvenlik Bilgi Formunun (SDS) 8.bölümündeki gösterilen şekilde koruyucu ekipmanlarınızı giyin.
Deri ile temasında soğuk yangına neden olabilir. Kullanmadan önce Bilgi Güvenlik Formunu (SDS) okuyun.

Depolama
Uyumuzuz maddelerden uzak tutun. Güvenlik bilgi formundaki 10.bölümüne bakınız. Sadece orijinal kabında muhafaza edin. Kaba sıkıca kapalı halde, serin ve iyi havalandırılan bir ortamda muhafaza edin. Kapları dik bir şekilde tutun. Kapları hasarlardan koruyun. Güneş ışığından koruyun. İstidarı, kıvılcım ve açık ateyle uzak tutun. 45°C'yi aşmayan sıcaklıklarda muhafaza edin.

Acil Sağlık Hizmetleri: 112
Ulusal Zehir Danışma Merkezi(UZEM): 114

WARNING!
Hazard
H280- Contains gas under pressure ; may explode if heated

Precautionary
P410 + P403 Protect from sunlight. Store in a well-ventilated place

Use personal protection recommended in Section 8. Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing.

Contact with skin may cause cold burn. Please read the safety data sheet (SDS) before use.

Storing
Keep away from incompatible materials. See chapter 10 on the safety data sheet. Store only in the original container. Keep container tightly closed in a cool, well-ventilated place. Keep containers upright. Protect containers from damage. Protect from sunlight. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flames.Store at temperatures not exceeding 45 ° C.

Florlu sera gazı içermektedir.
Florlu sera gazlarına ilişkin yönetmelik 30201 kapsamındadır.
Contains fluorinated greenhouse gases.

R-134a
GWP/KIP: 1430 CO₂ eq./Kg

CAS Nr. 811/97/2 EC Nr. 212-377-0

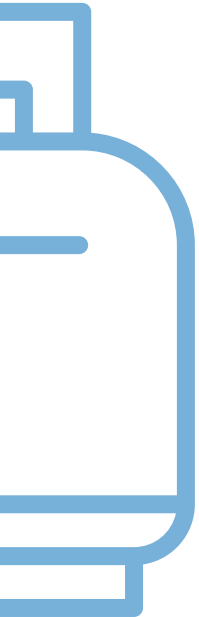
Üretici /Dağıtıcı Bilgisi



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