

F-Gas Regulation

Starting 1st January 2020, the F-gas regulation will apply to control the uses of greenhouse gases in the refrigeration and air conditioning fields.

The goal of this law is to reduce global warming by using refrigerants more respectful of the environment. So, the refrigeration field is directly impacted by this change.

In the actual ecological situation, reducing the effect of the cooling field on earth is important. Froilabo is committed to its values and makes it a priority to protect your samples, secure the user and reduce the ecological footprint of its product. That's why, since few months, Froilabo products are available with natural gases.

Following Montréal (1987) and Kyoto's (1997) protocols, measures about greenhouse gases were taken. A European regulation (F-gas regulation) relating to fluorinated greenhouse gases was published in April 2014 concerning various products, especially refrigerating and air conditioning products. The goal of this new regulation is the reduction of "greenhouse gas emissions by 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050 to limit global climate change" for developed countries.

From an ecological point of view, the goal is to limit climate changes and avoid side effects on climate on a worldwide scale.

Few definitions

GWP (Global Warming Potential): It's a measure of the noxiousness of a gas as a function of its impact on global warming. This measure is calculated according to the lifespan of the gas and its radiative property. The value of reference is equal to 1 and correspond to the CO₂. More the GWP value is high, the corresponding gas has a noxious activity for earth.

Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent: It's a measure of reference to calculate emissions of various greenhouse gases, on the base of their GWP. A Tonne of CO₂ equivalent is the value of reference equal to 1 for the CO₂.

Fluorinated greenhouse gases: Fluorinated greenhouse gas (also called F-gas) are synthetic families of gases that comprise HFC, PFC and SF₆.

HFC (Hydrofluorocarbon): Organic compounds that contain fluorine, carbon, hydrogen. An example of a HFC is fluoroform, difluoromethane...

HCFC (Hydrochlorofluorocarbon): Organic gases that are fully or partially halogenated hydrocarbons that contain only carbon, hydrogen, chlorine and fluorine.

PFC (Fluorocarbon): Organofluorine compounds that contain only carbon and fluorine atoms. An example of PFC is tetrafluoromethane.

HC (Hydrocarbon): Organic compound that only contains carbons and hydrogens.

I89: Isceon 89

Leakage detection system: a calibrated mechanical, electrical or electronic device for detecting leakage of fluorinated greenhouse gases which, on detection, alerts the operator.

What is going to change?

Starting 1st January 2020, the F-gas regulation will evolve, and new instructions will start. The F-gas regulation forecast to progressively stop the use of HFC with high GWP on several deadlines.

Two major directives, about our products, will come into effect **in 2020** concerning:

- First, « Stationary refrigeration equipment, that contains, or whose functioning relies upon, HFCs with GWP of 2 500 or more except equipment intended for application designed to cool products to temperatures below -50°C ».
- And secondly, « Refrigerators and freezers for commercial use (hermetically sealed equipment) that contain HFCs with GWP of 2 500 or more ».

In 2022, those directives will be more precise and important as they will concern the same types of products but with restriction more important:

- « Refrigerators and freezers for commercial use (hermetically sealed equipment) that contain HFCs with GWP of 150 or more ».
- « Multipack centralised refrigeration systems for commercial use with a rated capacity of 40 kW or more that contain, or whose functioning relies upon, fluorinated greenhouse gases with GWP of 150 or more, except in the primary refrigerant circuit of cascade systems where fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of less than 1 500 may be used ».

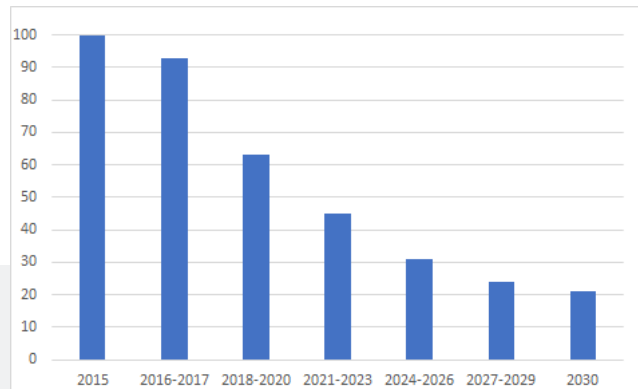
Down phase

The goal is to reduce greenhouse gases used as refrigerants in the field of cooling. Until now, refrigerants used were harmful for the Earth. Indeed, they were contributing to the degradation of the ozone layer and to global warming. That's why they are going to be replaced by natural gases. The goal being to make gases with high GWP slowly disappear.

Most common refrigerants used in the field of freezing are HFC. And most of them have a high GWP. The goal is to reduce their use in the years to come and to replace them by green refrigerants.

The objective of the "Down phase" is to eradicate fluorinated greenhouse gases through the increasing scarcity of HFC in function of their GWP. So, the quantity and importation of these products on the market will decrease and their price will noticeably increase.

A calendar of the “Down phase” about the evolution of HFC on the next 10 years is presented (graph below).



Estimated graph about percentages to calculate the maximum quantity of hydrofluorocarbons to be placed on the market and corresponding quotas as a function of years (numbers in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent).

How does the change happen at Froilabo?

On which types of products this regulation applies? And how to replace these HFC and with which refrigerants? To answer your questions concerning our products, here's a table resuming all the information.

For freezers, HC are natural refrigerants or green refrigerants that will replace HFC. The two most common green gases used in this category are propane (R290) and ethane (R170). These gases can be used because they have lower GWP than HFC.

Type of Product	Model	Temperature of application (in °C)	Gas used BEFORE the F-gas regulation		Gas used AFTER the F-gas regulation	
			Name of the Gas	GWP	Name of the Gas	GWP
Low temperature freezer	Trust	-45	R189	3332	R290	3
Ultra low temperature freezer	Trust	-86	R417a R508b	2346 13396	R290 R170	3 6
Low temperature freezer	Evolution	-45	R189	3332	R290	3
Ultra low temperature freezer	Evolution	-86	R417a R508a	2346 13396	R290 R170	3 6
Air conditioner	Dragon	From +25 to -80	R189 R508b	3332 13396	R1270 R170	2 6

Obligations of the equipment holder

Containment: The equipment holder containing greenhouse gases needs to be careful to avoid gases rejection. And the holder needs to look after the equipment and make sure it is fix in the best possible period in case of detection of a gas leak.

Labelling: Products need to have a label with the following information:

- ✓ A reference that the product contains fluorinated greenhouse gases
- ✓ The accepted industry designation of the gas or its chemical name
- ✓ The quantity (in weight and in CO₂ equivalent) of gas contained in the product and the global warming potential
- ✓ A reference that gases are contained in hermetically sealed equipment
- ✓ If there is a leakage detection system

The label must be perfectly visible and clear.

Qualification: Persons that handle installation, servicing, maintenance, repair or decommissioning of the equipment need to have a certification.

Record keeping: Operators of equipment which is required to be checked for leaks shall establish and maintain records specifying the following information:

- ✓ The quantity and type of gas installed
- ✓ The quantity of gas added during installation, maintenance or servicing or due to leakage
- ✓ The quantities of installed gases that have been recycled or reclaimed, including the name and address of the recycling or reclamation facility and the certificate number, the identity of the company
- ✓ Dates and results of the checks carried out

And for those owning an equipment with heavy charges of gas?

It must be known that this regulation also applies to products in the fields of air conditioning and equipment of cooling with heavy quantities of gas. At Froilabo, quantities of gas used are not following severe verifications because they are under 2 kg for most of our products, except for CRP (Fast plasma freezer). Indeed, for this product, it possesses more important charges in gas so will be submitted to dedicated controls.

If you own in your laboratory or your company, an equipment with heavy charges of gas, here's some indications. In this case, a frequency of leak checks needs to be respected and with a certain periodicity. Those data could be useful if you possess this type of equipment.

Frequency of leak checks

For equipment that has heavy charges of gas, a frequency of leak checks must be respected.

Equipment that contains fluorinated greenhouse gases according to the following quantities:	Detection system	
	Without	With
Superior or equal to 5 Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent but less than 50 Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	12 months	24 months
Superior or equal to 50 Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent but less than 500 Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	6 months	12 months
Superior or equal to 500 Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	3 months	6 months

Periodicity of leak checks

For equipment that has heavy charges of refrigerants, a periodicity of leak checks must be respected.

Fluid	Charge in refrigerants of the equipment	Frequency of check-up	
		Without detection system of leak	With detection system of leak
HCFC	Between 2 kg and 30 kg	12 months	
	Between 30 kg and 300 kg	6 months	
	Superior to 300 kg	3 months	
HFC, PFC	Between 5 and 50 tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	12 months	24 months
	Between 50 and 500 tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	6 months	12 months
	Superior to 500 tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	3 months	6 months

Are you interested by this subject on the cold? Our team is passionate and available to answer your questions on the cold and our products.

Source of the quotations: Regulation (EU) n° 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and repealing Regulation (EC) n° 842/2006