



# AREA Bulletin

*Quarterly publication of the European voice of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps contractors*

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## **F-Gas review: AREA replies to public consultation**

AREA has provided a [comprehensive reply](#) to the European Commission's [public consultation](#) on the review of the F-Gas Regulation. The reply is based on AREA's detailed position paper on the Regulation's review.

AREA's main line remains that European contractors prefer an improvement of the current Regulation (e.g. 3kg threshold, mobile refrigeration, mandatory register of operatives...) coupled with proper implementation, application and enforcement instead of a full reconsideration of EU's policy on refrigerants. Although contractors are generally neutral towards refrigerants, AREA also warns that an unconsidered and rushed roll-out of natural refrigerants could be counter-productive if it is not accompanied with adequate training of the workforce to make sure that safety issues (working pressure, flammability, toxicity) are well managed.

## **Energy Efficiency Directive: a threat to heat pumps?**

The European Commission's [proposal for a Directive on Energy Efficiency](#) establishes a common framework for promoting energy efficiency to ensure the target of 20 % primary energy savings by 2020 is met and to pave the way for further energy efficiency afterwards. It also lays down rules designed to remove barriers and overcome some of the market failures that impede efficiency in the supply and use of energy. AREA can only support these objectives.

It however came as a surprise that Article 10, which deals with efficiency in energy supply, requires Member States to actively promote and facilitate the development of cogeneration for district heating and cooling. Whilst the idea behind the article is not problematic in itself (cogeneration is indeed a useful tool for energy efficiency), the requirement poses a potential threat to the development of other efficient energy sources, among which heat pumps.

So far, the European Commission has always adopted a technology-neutral approach to energy efficiency. The Directive on renewable energy sources (RES Directive) is a good example. Whereas it does set a list of technologies considered as renewable – among which heat pumps – it does not set any preference for one or the other. This reflects the general idea that energy efficiency will not be achieved through one source/technology but thanks to the co-existence of a variety of technologies.

Article 10 may endanger this philosophy, at least as far as city districts are concerned. By favouring cogeneration for district heating and cooling, heat pumps would be put at a disadvantage. This is all the more surprising since such provision seems in complete contradiction with the RES Directive, as it would set an obstacle to the promotion and use of heat pumps – the central objective of the Directive.

AREA has adopted a [joint position paper](#) together with EPEE and EHPA. The paper stresses that *“favouring district energy could block other highly energy efficient solutions: by choosing certain means (district heating and district cooling) instead of setting overall clear saving targets, the Directive risks to block other energy efficient solutions such as heat pumps, heat recovery or combined local heating/cooling solutions”*. The position therefore defends the technology neutrality principle, as well as coherence with the Directive on the promotion and use of renewable energy sources.

## Minimum requirements for heat pumps' installers

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, AREA issued a [position](#) on minimum requirements for achieving certification or equivalent qualification schemes with regard to the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Directive 2009/28/EC (RES) Article 14 paragraph 3, for design, installation, service and maintenance of heat pumps.

With this position, AREA aims to assist the European Commission and Member States in ensuring the successful transition into national schemes by 2012 of those aspects of RES relating to heat pumps.

## Task Forces activities

AREA Task Forces met on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011 during the AREA spring General Assembly in London.

**TF F-Gas Review**, chaired by Graeme Fox (HVCA/RACG, UK) drew the lines of AREA's response to the European Commission's consultation on F-Gas.

**TF Low GWP Refrigerants**, chaired by Marco Buoni (ATF, Italy) contributed to a Shecco survey on natural refrigerants. It took the opportunity of its London meeting to set the orientations of its future work on minimum requirements for contractors dealing with low GWP refrigerants.

**TF Heat Pumps**, chaired by Per Jonasson (KYL, Sweden), has adopted a final AREA position on qualification schemes for installers of heat pumps.

## Ongoing projects

### Real Skills Europe

The [project](#) was officially launched in the summer. The presentations are now available in the past event section of the Institute of Refrigeration website or by using the links below.

[Training Forum Presentations](#)

[RSE Launch Event Presentations](#)

## Events

### AREA autumn General Assembly meeting, 7-8 October 2011, London

Some 25 AREA delegates met on 7-8 October in London. F-Gas, the Energy Efficiency Directive, existing training schemes and levels with low GWP refrigerants, regulatory requirements applicable to contractors were among the issues discussed. New Task Forces were set up:

- TF PED, in charge of putting together an AREA position on the minimum requirements to comply with the Pressure Equipment Directive
- TF Energy Efficiency, in charge of coordinating AREA work on the proposal for an Energy Efficiency Directive

- TF Chillventa, in charge of preparing AREA participation in Chillventa 2012

AREA will hold its next general assembly meeting on 4-5 May 2012 in Bordeaux (France). The event is hosted by SNEFCCA.

#### **AREA meets UNEP and a Chinese RAC delegation**



AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni met UNEP and a Chinese delegation of RAC on 14<sup>th</sup> October in Paris. The meeting was about exchanging information on trainings, competence and in LOW GWP refrigerants trends with the Chinese delegation.

The Chinese delegation expressed particular interest in the European scenario of refrigerants, in order to understand what the developments in Europe are. Mr. Buoni presented AREA's positions on the F-Gas Regulation review and on the use of low GWP refrigerants.

Both China delegation (CAR - association of manufacturers) and UNEP are keen to collaborate more and more with AREA as it is an independent association of member associations.

***15<sup>th</sup> European conference on renewable energy in heating and cooling, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011, Edinburgh***

More information available [HERE](#)

**CHILLVENTA 2012**  
9-11 October 2012, Nürnberg (Germany)  
<http://www.chillventa.de/en>

*Merry Christmas!  
And a Happy New Year!*



*On behalf of all AREA members*

Photo by [Marple](#) / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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