

Items covered:

- Editorial	p.2
- Letter in brief	p.3
- Environment	
Kyoto Protocol	p.3
Agreement of the Council on the draft F-gas Regulation proposal	p.5
Infringement proceedings against Austria and Denmark	p.6
- Education & vocational training	
Maastricht December Leonardo da Vinci exhibition & congress	p.7
President Jacquin's speech at the Nürnberg Skills Competition	p.9
- European Legislation	
Scope of the WEEE Directive	p.10
General information on ATEX Directive	p.13
- Standardization	
Article of Calor Gas	p.15
Flammability Data table	p.16
PrEN 14624	p.17
- European Commission	
Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs	p.17
- European Parliament	
Rapporteur on F-gases Avril Doyle	p.18
- News from our Members : VDKF / IKK	p.19
- Sister associations : ASERCOM, EPEE, IIR, REHVA, EUROVENT	p.21
- NGO : Greenpeace	p.26
- Events	p.27,...

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Editorial

Dear Members,

What if ...

AREA had tried hard for many years, in the nineties, to draw the Commission's attention to the harmonization of refrigeration education and the need for certification. The Directorates General Internal Market, Education and Culture, and Industry were not prepared to address these questions.

Now we have been successful by entering through a kind of back door: "the climate change issue".

We shall try our best to properly inform the F-gas Management Committee about our opinion on minimum requirements for RAC training programs and certification systems.

We may try to play an active role in advising on the implementation of national schemes.

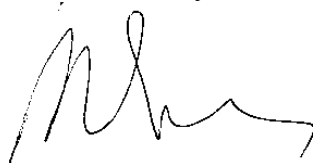
Of course, having obtained the above results through the climate change issue, our work is limited to the F-gas refrigerants.

What if we want to extend our work and our influence to the other refrigerants; it would make a lot of sense since these refrigerating fluids involve more risks : high pressure (CO²), flammability (HC) or toxicity (NH³)...

What if we want to extend our work by including in our portfolio, other levels of qualification : supervisor, AC for garage mechanics, ...

The readers are welcome to inform their interest in such initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Berckmans
Secretary General

The letter in brief

Finally the latest draft (dated October 18) of the proposed F-gas Regulation and the MAC Directive, approved by the Council, is available. Its text is on the AREA website, downloadable from the home page. The next step will be the Second Reading at the European Parliament; it could happen in June 2005. A possible date for the final agreement to be published in the Official Journal is late 2006. At that time it will be essential to have access to the Regulation's Management Committee that will be responsible for establishing the standard inspection requirements as well as the minimum requirements / mutual recognition for RAC training and certification.

The Leonardo da Vinci project The European Refrigeration Craftsman is now at the end of its second year. After the successful Skills Competition, the project management team will be in Maastricht in mid December, to present the results at the Leonardo da Vinci exhibition and congress. AREA will participate in a seminar on vocational training for workers in small companies and will attend an information day for promoters interested in the 2005/2006 call for new projects. The Partners are asked to submit their final comments on the portfolio of qualifications and skills by the end of the year in order to intensify the dissemination of the results throughout Europe, in 2005.

Information is given about a UK Department of Trade & Industry guidance document containing a decision tree that can be used to decide whether or not a product might come within the scope of the WEEE Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment Directive. The decision tree takes you through six "decisions" and the last asks "is the product part of another type of equipment or fixed installation?" If it is, then the product is not covered by the Directive. This last piece of DTI guidance appears as a clear confirmation that installed products are excluded and that only stand alone appliances are included in the scope of WEEE.

The letter also gives some general background information about the ATEX Equipment and Protective Systems intended for use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Directive.

The New Commission and Parliament section speaks about the Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs (Latvia) and MEP Avril Doyle (Ireland), F-gas Regulation Rapporteur.

The Events sections include the European Seminar on CO² systems (Milano, Italy, November 27, 2004) and the Conference on Advances in Alternative Cooling Technologies (London, UK, February 1, 2005).

Environment

Kyoto Protocol

The Russian Douma has voted in favour of the decision to ratify the Protocol. So the Protocol will eventually become operational after more than 7 years. The Protocol will enter into force on February 16, 2005.

EPEE / Hill & Knowlton informed, on November 18, about the European Parliament's adoption of its first Climate Change Resolution ahead of COP 10 meeting :

“Yesterday the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the EU strategy for the Buenos Aires Conference on Climate Change (COP-10). The lead MEP on this Resolution was the Environment Committee Chair (and chair of the Parliament's COP 10 delegation), German Christian Democrat Karl-Heinz Florenz.

It was adopted with 640 votes in favour, 22 against with 21 abstentions. I attach the full text of the Resolution below.

The resolution made it clear that MEPs want the EU to maintain its leading role in the negotiations on climate change.

Other issues covered:

1. Parliament believes that COP-10 constitutes a **good opportunity** not only to **build on the decisions** taken at previous Conferences on implementing the Kyoto Protocol, but also to **start a wide-ranging debate** on the main issues for the **second commitment period**.
2. MEPs urge the EU and all other parties to the UNFCCC to continue the discussions with a view to **incorporating emissions from international flights and shipping** into the emission reduction targets of the second commitment period from 2012. They want parties to specifically **monitor transportation emissions and possibly develop their own protocol** on such emissions.
3. The Resolution welcomes the recent **decision of the Russian Federation to ratify** the Kyoto Protocol, thus enabling it to enter into force. It calls on the countries that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so as soon as possible. MEPs **want the US Government to reconsider** its decision not to participate.
4. Of specific interest is the reference to fit and cross-over between **EU, UN and national measures to tackle climate change** is recital D : “whereas the Kyoto Protocol is only a first initiative taken by the international community in the fight against climate change, and whereas this does not mean that the other measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions which can be taken at national level should be relegated to a secondary role; on the contrary, they should be considered as **complementary**.”
5. It believes that the **EU should redouble its efforts** to meet the Kyoto Protocol targets, and set an example for other parties to the Convention. It especially stresses the importance of **energy efficiency and renewable energy sources** in this connection.
6. They also urge the Commission to take **immediate legal steps** regarding the Member States which do not comply with the requirements of the **Emissions trading Directive**. It further insists that ‘**no changes to approved national allocation plans** should be permitted subsequent to the 1 January 2005 date of application.’”

EPEE / Hill & Knowlton informed the names of the MEPs who will make up the EP delegation to COP 10 in Buenos Aires in December.

They are:

1. **Karl Heinz Florenz**¹ - delegation leader (EPP, Germany)
2. **Avril Doyle** (EPP, Ireland)
3. Eija Korhola (EPP, Finland)
4. **Dorette Corbey**² (PES, Netherlands)
5. **Chris Davies** (ALDE, UK)
6. Jonas Sjöstedt ((EUL/NGL, Sweden)
7. Liam Aylward (UEN, Ireland)
8. Satu Hassi (Green, Finland)

(editor's note : in bold characters, the important MEP whom I want to visit in due time)

As you can see there are no members from the new Member States and only 2 new MEPs from EU15 (Hassi and Aylward). All other members (with the exemption of F-gases Rapporteur Avril Doyle) have attended COP meetings in the past on behalf of the Parliament.

F-Gas issue

You have received on October 20 the latest draft (dated October 18) of the proposed F-gas Regulation and the MAC Directive. These documents are available at the Secretariat in word format.

Secretary Robert Berckmans attended the EPEE (European Partnership for Energy and the Environment) General Assembly on October 26 and the EFCTC (European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee) on November 10.

Here are some additional pieces of information.

The legal base Article 95 of the Treaty – Internal Market applies to the articles 6a Labelling, 7 Control of Use, 8 Placing on the Market with its Annex II. It means that any deviation from Member States on these articles will have to follow a specified procedure, to be carefully justified and cannot distort the compliance with the Treaty (see below, infringement procedure against Austria and Denmark).

The legal base Article 175 – Environment applies to the other articles : inspections, training, certification, ... A Member State that wants, for instance, to organize more frequent inspections or impose linguistic knowledge, can organize it more easily (i.e. no formal procedure imposed) BUT any implication, any impact of its measure will have to comply with the Treaty, otherwise its measure is exposed to be challenged by the Commission and other States.

Likely time scenario :

- Second Reading at the European Parliament : around June 2005
- Final agreement end Summer 2006 (provided there is not a Conciliation procedure between the Parliament and the Council)
- Entry into force (between Summer and end 2007?) 1 year after date of publication in the Official Journal

¹ #2 contact for AREA

² #1 contact for AREA

AREA will have to get its message across and to follow closely the work of the Management Committee (same as the ODS Regulation Committee but with possible new MS Representatives) :

Scope of work of the Management Committee :

- **Article 3 – Containment : standard inspection requirements by entry into force**
- **Article 5 – Training & Certification : minimum requirements / mutual recognition and system for notification of MS training systems by entry into force**
- Article 6 – Reporting : reporting format by entry into force
- Article 6a : form of label (no timing)
- Review : mobile applications by end 2007 and 4 years after entry into force report on experience of application of Regulation.

ENDS article on the legal infringement proceedings launched against Austria and Denmark

“The European Commission has launched legal infringement proceedings against Austria and Denmark, claiming that their national legislation phasing out f-gases in some applications is too restrictive. A letter of formal notice was sent to both countries last week under article 28 of the EU treaty on the free movement of goods.

The action follows industry complaints last year saying that national bans were damaging to imports and ruled out the use of HFCs, PFCs and SF6 (known collectively as f-gases) even where there was no acceptable alternative.

Commission sources said that after investigation the national laws did seem "disproportionate" and "discriminatory". Both countries now have two months to respond to the its warning.

Austria and Denmark were the only two countries to vote against an EU regulation on f-gases at this month's environment council, saying it was a "step backwards" from their current national laws.

The Commission decision to take legal action, though not linked to the regulation, confirms Danish and Austrian fears that they may have to undo their strongest f-gas controls to fit in with EU internal market requirements.

* In a related development, Norwegian pollution control authority SFT on Monday reported a 25% increase in atmospheric concentrations of HFCs over the Arctic in 2003. The survey also found a slight rise in levels of carbon dioxide and methane, whilst CFCs were levelling out or falling.

Frode Stordal of the institute for atmospheric research (NILU), which carried out the monitoring, described the rate of HFC increase to Aftenposten newspaper as "dramatic". The pace of growth was even faster than a 20% increase recorded in 2002.”

On October 27, Belgium, Portugal and Sweden published a statement on the Environment Council's political agreement on F-gases (see below). The statement calls for a timely review of the Regulation which could include banning F-gases were there are cost-effective alternatives.

AT, DK, SE, BE and PT will now be lobbying the Parliament during the Second Reading (Q2 2005).

**JOINT STATEMENT OF BELGIUM, PORTUGAL AND SWEDEN
ON THE POLITICAL AGREEMENT OF THE COUNCIL
ON CERTAIN FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GASES**

With this statement we want to express our disappointment that the Regulation allows the use and placing of the market of fluorinated gases in areas where cost-effective alternatives exist. For that reason, we call for an ambitious and timely review of the Regulation. The availability of alternatives and experience of limiting fluorinated gases gained by member states should serve as a basis for the review.

We also regret that the legal basis of the Regulation does not reflect that the primary objective in this case is the protection of the environment.

Furthermore, as regards the provisions based on Article 95, we had hoped for more far-reaching and efficient restrictions to reduce fluorinated gas emissions.

The fluorinated gases have very strong greenhouse gas potentials and a very long atmospheric lifetime. For that reason it is very important to limit the emissions from the fluorinated gases to achieve our undertaking according to the Kyoto protocol and the ultimate objective of the Climate Convention.

We will work constructively during the second reading with the purpose to improve this Regulation.

Education & vocational training

AREA is invited to participate in the following seminar :

LEONARDO DA VINCI THEMATIC MONITORING SEMINAR

CONTINUOUS VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR WORKERS IN SMALL COMPANIES IN PARTICULAR FROM THE MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

16th December 2004
Maastricht Exhibition & Congress Centre (MECC)
NL-6229 GV MAASTRICHT
<http://www.mecc.nl>

Registration and Projects Showcase

Welcome and Background to the Thematic Monitoring Initiative

*Alice Copette, European Commission, Directorate-General for Education & Culture
(Application & Dissemination of Innovation)*

Introduction: Continuous vocational training for workers in small companies especially from the manufacturing and processing industries

Antonio Corral, IKEI (Instituto Vasco de Estudios e Investigación S.A.)

Workshop A – How can a small company provide training? Can intermediary structures and training providers play a role as facilitators?

Workshop B – Skills shortage in small companies: how to match the needs of small companies with the competences of their workers?

These workshops will allow an exchange of experience amongst participants and a content-level discussion on the theme. Workshops will run concurrently, with participants attending Workshop A in the morning and Workshop B in the afternoon, or vice-versa.

Workshop A	Workshop B
Chair: Irene van der Horst-Tacq (Vanderhorst Consultancy bv.). Assistant : Christopher Markides (National Agency Cyprus)	Chair: Andreas Christou (Human Resource Development Authority, Cyprus) Assistant: Hilde Hvistendahl (National Agency Norway)

Participants: Sjoerd Oppewal (ALFA Management Consultants), Andreas Christou (Human Resource Development Authority, Cyprus), Irene van der Horst-Tacq (Vanderhorst Consultancy bv.), Elisabetta Degiampietro (European Commission, DG Education and culture); representative from DG Enterprises(European Commission); representative from the enterprise world

On the same day, December 16, Secretary Robert Berckmans will attend the Information Day for (Leonardo da Vinci) Project Promoters, also in Maastricht, NL. The objective is to get ready to apply for a new project designed to continue the Refrigeration Craftsman project. The Call for Proposal covers the years 2005 and 2006.

On October 29, Project Coordinator Jan Reijmers and Secretary Robert Berckmans met the Monitor Groep in Utrecht, to organize the content of the AREA website in the frame of the dissemination of the project.

Speech delivered by President Jacquin during the prize ceremony of the AREA 2004 Skills Competition :

IKK – SKILLS COMPETITION

Ladies & Gentlemen,

AREA is particularly thankful to our host VDKF, one of the starting members of our association. We are very pleased to award today's prize to Morten Arnvig our first President, who had contributed significantly in the European profession of our trade. Mrs Lotte Arnvig, whom I am happy to greet, will offer the trophy. I would like to remind also the excellent work performed by Past President Norman Mitchell.

Under the roof of this large European Fair IKK, we have installed, with our first skills competition, a showcase of our professional branch : Refrigeration. Without cooling, as I used to say life would not exist – as we enjoy it today – in our modern world : no more storage, transportation or distribution of foodstuffs, no sophisticated healthcare equipment, no food-processing industry, ...

As it is normal on the occasion of any news project, some improvements will be taken care of in the future : we shall have a wider jury compose of professionals from each participating country ; the participating countries will have the opportunity to translate into their language all documents before the beginning of the competition.

The refrigeration craftsman has his own specificity and cannot be classified in traditional large categories like the technicians of the construction industry, as several National technocrats would like to believe despite our disagreement.

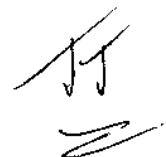
AREA continues to defend the atypical nature of the refrigeration professionals and promotes their high standards of quality and the complexity of their work environment.

Our involvement in this Leonardo project has been so important to us, because we have to show the refrigeration and air conditioning industry that we need to communicate in a much better way with the youngsters in order to explain the advantages of our craft and to attract them to our trade.

This first European Skills Competition is the beginning of a new communication and we hope that motivated young talent will join our industry which has a unique potential but needs a large number of craftsmen to succeed in the future challenges.

Thank you to the AREA team for the organization of this event.

Thank you to the young competitors who represent to us : continuity, hope and coming success.



European legislation

WEEE Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment

AREA wrote to the Commission about the scope of the Directive :

“ ...

The air conditioning and refrigeration sectors offer a wide range of products ranging

- A. from air conditioner and cooling appliances, that can be purchased by consumers as complete units, that do not need to be integrated into any system, that need only to be plugged in and operated, and that do not require to be installed by professional craftsmen,
- B. to a variety of air conditioning and refrigeration systems, that need to be assembled and permanently integrated into buildings and that have to be installed by qualified and certified professionals.

We would like to suggest that the Commission make the differentiation of air conditioning & refrigeration “appliances” (A. here above) that are clearly within the scope of the WEEE Directive and air conditioning & refrigeration “systems” (B. here above) that should be outside the scope of the Directive.

...”

The following preliminary answer was received :



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
ENV.G - Sustainable Development & Integration
ENV.G.4 - Sustainable Production & Consumption

Brussels, 27 10. 2004
TO/AP/cba D(2004)741721

Mr Robert H. Berckmans
Air conditioning and Refrigeration
European Association AREA
Beau Site Première avenue 88
B-1330 Rixensart
robert.berckmans@area-eur.be

Dear Mr Berckmans,

Receipt of your letter of 9 September 2004
Ref. Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

Thank you for your above letter and please excuse the belated reply.

The issue you raise in your letter is of a complex technical nature, which requires further investigation from our side and consultation with other Commission services. We will therefore come back to you as quickly as possible.

The matter is being handled by Ms Anna Passera, Tel. +32-2-2995619, Fax +32-2-2963980, e-mail address Anna.Passera@cec.eu.int.

Yours sincerely,

Marianne KLINGBEIL
Head of Unit

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: BU-5 5-167. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2960493. Fax: (32-2) 2963980.
PA53.06 WEEE-ROHS\7.5 Relations with the civil society\Correspondence\2004\Holding_en - Mr Berckmans.doc

Useful information received from FETA/BRA :

26th October 2004

FETA guidance on the scope of the WEEE directive relating to HVACR products

1 Introduction

During the years leading up to the introduction of the WEEE Directive into UK law there has been confusion over what products are included in the scope of the Directive (and therefore the UK legislation) and what products are excluded.

This short guidance paper has collected together the best available information as it stands at October 2004

In an Annex of the Directive under “Large Household appliances”, examples included large cooling appliances; other large appliances for refrigeration, conservation and storage of food; electric fans and Air Conditioning appliances.

People were unsure if all air conditioning systems were included or just mobiles. Also there was confusion over whether or not commercial refrigerated display cabinets of the type found in supermarkets were included or not.

2 Available guidance

Over the past 18 months there has been useful guidance which is helping to clear up the confusion over scope or “grey areas” as they have become known.

- a) In March 2003 in a letter to FETA to clarify the scope of the WEEE and RoHS Directives to air conditioning and refrigeration appliances, the DTI stated “we concur with your view that items such as air conditioning systems, which are installed within the fabric of a building, should be excluded from the scope of the Directives. This view has been expressed to the Commission.”
- b) In March 2004 FETA contacted the DTI saying that we wished to confirm that our understanding was still correct, that air conditioning systems that are permanently fixed into a building are outside the scope. The DTI again confirmed this.

From this advice we continued to advise FETA members that “installed” equipment was outside of the scope of the directive (such as split system air conditioning, commercial refrigerated display cabinets and fans installed into a hole in the wall and hard wired into the mains supply) and that only equipment such as mobile air conditioning, integral display cabinets (of the type holding chilled drinks in forecourt shops) and stand alone fans with a 13-amp plug would be within the scope.

- c) During the third consultation with industry in July 2004, the DTI issued a series of six consultation papers. One of these is the draft non-statutory guidance on the WEEE Directive. This 50-page document is full of very useful guidance on how to comply with the regulations and it is available as a download from www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/index.htm. FETA recommends this to any member struggling with the requirements of the directive as it breaks it down into easy to understand sections.

- d) Annex B of the DTI draft guidance document contains a decision tree that can be used to decide whether or not a product might come within the scope of the WEEE Regulations. The decision tree takes you through six “decisions” and the last asks “is the product part of another type of equipment or fixed installation?” If it is, then the product is not covered by the directive (or the UK implementing legislation).

3 Industry position

This last piece of DTI guidance is clear confirmation that installed products are excluded and that only stand alone appliances are included. A copy of the decision tree has been included on page 3 on this guidance.

As a footnote to their decision tree the DTI say “while these exclusions are not expressly provided for in the Directive, it is the UK view that they apply”. They also say “producers should rely on independent legal advice on compliance”. We would expect the DTI to add these qualifications to their advice. Nonetheless it is the clearest indication yet on the question of what is within the scope of the directive.

Mike Duggan
FETA
26th October 2004

Secretary Berckmans and Mr. Graeme Fox, Chairman of the Technical and Environment Committee, have used the above arguments, while writing to the Commission on November 22 to obtain a confirmation that RAC installations are clearly not covered by the Directive.

ATEX Equipment and Protective Systems intended for use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Directive

The TEC is currently working on this issue.

This is a useful website to visit to complete your information :

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/atex/indexinfor.htm>



RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND APPLICATION OF THE DIRECTIVE

[Directive 94/9/EC](#)

The ATEX Directive is a so-called "[New Approach](#)" Directive giving the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs) and conformity assessment procedures which must be applied to equipment within its scope before being placed on the European market.

These requirements provide for a high level of protection for citizens, and are given technical expression by what are called "Harmonised Standards".

[How to apply the Directive](#)

The Directive is implemented in Europe by means of each national authority transposing its provisions into their legislation, and it is these texts which have direct effect in the first instance. As a result Member States and others who apply its requirements are directly responsible for implementation and enforcement, as well as, for example, the management of Notified Bodies.

As it is these national provisions which directly apply to manufacturers, it is always recommended as a first step for manufacturers to discuss any issues that they may have concerning the Directive with the relevant [national contact point](#).

As a result of the excellent co-operation between all those involved, the formal ATEX Standing Committee has been able to give a unanimous positive opinion to a set of guidance notes which have been published by the Commission services to assist those who need to apply the Directive. This is not "law" and has no legal weight as such, but has been found to be a very useful document. As with all such documents continuous revision is required, and this is done by means of "Clarification Papers" which are also provided under this heading. These papers are the result of further discussion at the Experts Working Group. It is therefore suggested that the reader considers both sets of advisory texts whilst keeping in mind that the manufacturer or other responsible person continues to have sole responsibility for compliance with the provisions of the Directive.

In parallel to ATEX Directive 94/9/EC, there is a Directive dealing with the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (1999/92/EC), under the responsibility of [DG Employment and Social Affairs](#). This sets out the responsibilities of employers and not manufacturers. A link to this text is also provided in the part of the site dealing with legislation.

[Standardisation](#)

A request is made by the European Commission to the European Standardisation Organisations to develop Harmonised Standards - to [CEN](#) (for non-electrical equipment), [CENELEC](#) (for electrical equipment), and/or [ETSI](#) (for telecommunications equipment). These Organisations, separate and independent from the European Commission, then develop standards which are presented to and published by the European Commission in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

[Notified Bodies](#)

If a conformity assessment procedure under the Directive calls for third-party intervention, then this is undertaken by so-called "Notified Bodies", who are appointed by the Member States because they have the relevant expertise and facilities to undertake the required procedures. This might include a "Type Examination", which involves an assessment made of the product against the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs) of the Directive, or even (amongst others) a report of the manufacturer's Quality Assurance procedures to ensure that the "type" will continue to comply with the requirements. Whilst these Bodies are given a number and are listed in the OJEC by the European Commission prior to their operation, the activities of Notified Bodies are a matter for Member States, as they are appointed under their authority. In addition, whilst the Notified Body has various responsibilities under the Directive, the manufacturer (or authorised representative) always remains responsible for the compliance of the equipment.

[Working structure within EU](#)

There are four main themes in the working structure of this directive - management and implementation, administrative co-operation, discussion between Notified Bodies and standardisation.

The ATEX Standing Committee was set up according to the ATEX Directive 94/9/EC to deal with management issues relating to the provisions it lays down. The membership of this Committee consists of the Member States only.

The Experts Working Group, also usually referred to as the ATEX Standing Committee, meets up to twice a year to discuss matters relating to the Directive to iron out any particular problems that cannot be resolved at a national level. This Committee is Chaired by the Commission and includes representatives from Member States, Candidates, Industry, Standardisation and Conformity Assessment Bodies.

In order to discuss matters relating to market surveillance and other issues of mutual interest national authorities have recently set up their own informal committee. This is a restricted meeting which allows matters to be dealt with in-confidence.

To ensure consistency of approach between Notified Bodies in Europe, there is an independent group called the ExNBG (Ex Notified Bodies Group) which meets once a year where ATEX Notified Bodies consider and agree to apply a harmonised technical approach to third-party intervention. Papers from this Group go to the ATEX Standing Committee in order to ensure transparency.

Finally, the two Committees within CEN and CENELEC responsible for developing standards under the ATEX 94/9/EC mandate are CEN TC 305 and CENELEC TC 31 respectively. However, this work also involves other Committees, such as those dealing with machinery where relevant standards have been identified for full harmonisation under the ATEX Directive.

[Who is who](#)

Directories providing a reference point giving details of contacts in competent administrations in Member States, industry, as well as international organisations involved in the sector.

[International development](#)

Find links to the latest developments in the international European policy.

Standardisation

A member of CEN will attend the next TC 182 meeting due to a communication from Calor Gas.

For those of you interested, the secretariat has on file (pdf format) the referred to article "Appraising the flammability hazards of HC refrigerants".

The article of Calor Gas apparently came too late to be taken into account in the current discussion about the next revision of EN 378.

Preliminary document issues by CEN on October 13 on :

[FLAMMABILITY DATA TABLE](#)

ISO/TC 86/SC 8/WG 5 N 78

Refrigerant Number	Chemical Formula	LFL (% v/v)	ETFL ₆₀ (% v/v)	S _U	HOC (MJ/kg)	ASHRAE Safety Group
R-30	CH ₂ Cl ₂	14.1 ¹				B2
R-32	CH ₂ F ₂	14.4 ²			9.4 ³	A2
R-40	CH ₃ Cl	8.2 ¹				B2
R-41	CH ₃ F	6.8 ¹				NR
R-50	CH ₄	4.9 ²				A3
R-141b	CH ₃ CCl ₂ F	5.8 ³			8.6 ³	NR
R-142b	CH ₃ CClF ₂	8.0 ²			9.8 ³	A2
R-143a	CH ₃ CF ₃	8.2 ²			10.3 ³	A2
R-152a	CH ₃ CHF ₂	4.8 ²			17.4 ³	A2
R-170	CH ₃ CH ₃	3.1 ²				A3
R-E170	CH ₃ OCH ₃	3.4 ⁴				A3
R-290	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₃	2.1 ²			50.3 ³	A3
R-600	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	1.8 ²			49.5 ³	A3
R-600a	CH(CH ₃) ₂ CH ₃	1.8 ²			49.4 ³	A3
R-610	CH ₃ CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₃	1.9 ³ /1.7 ⁵				NR
R-611	HCOOCH ₃	4.5 ³ /5.4 ⁶				B2
R-630	CH ₃ NH ₂	4.9 ³				NR
R-631	CH ₃ CH ₂ (NH ₂)	3.5 ³				NR
R-702	H ₂	4.0 ⁷				A3
R-717	NH ₃	16.1 ⁵			22.5 ³	B2
R-1132a	CH ₂ =CF ₂	2.3 ³ /5.5 ⁸				
R-1150	CH ₂ =CH ₂	3.1 ²				A3
R-1270	CH ₃ CH=CH ₂	2.3 ²				A3

¹ Kondo² Agreed for IEC Annex³ JMC⁴ G.W. Jones, US Bureau of Mines 1947⁵ A.G. White, J.Chem.Soc. 1922⁶ H.F. Coward, "Limits of Flammability of Gasses and Vapors", 1952⁷ J.H. Burgoyne, 1948⁸ Kataoka, Daikin MSDS

Refrigerant Number	LFL			ETFL ₆₀			S ₀			HOC	ASHRAE Safety Group
	Nominal	WCF	WCFF	Nominal	WCF	WCFF	Nominal	WCF	WCFF	Nominal	
R-406A											A2
R-411A											A2
R-411B										6.5	A2
R-412A											A2
R-413A											A2
R-415A											A2
R-415B											A2
R-418A											A2
R-419A											A2

Bill Walter
16 September 2004

Notice :

CEN prEN 14624 : Performances of mobile leak detectors and of room controllers of halogenated refrigerants

CEN/TC 182 decided to create a new work item in order to draft an amendment with regard to prEN 14624 taking into account non fluorocarbons refrigerants. The secretariat will send out a letter in order to create a new working group.

Candidate members for this working group have to apply before the end of November 2004.

European Commission

The European Parliament on 18 November gave its vote of approval to the new line-up of the Barroso Commission 2005-2009.

The new Commission will start working on November 22.

In the last October newsletter, we presented the Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Stavros DIMAS.

Another important Commissioner (for us) is the **Commissioner for Energy, the Latvian ANDRIS PIEBALGS.**

Here some background information about Mr. Piebalgs :

Mr Piebalgs has extensive EU experience. In recent past he has held the posts of Latvian ambassador to the European Union (1998-2003) and as head of Cabinet of the current Latvian Commissioner Sandra Kalniete (who is currently shadowing the Austrian Fisheries

Commissioner Franz Fischler responsible for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries). He gained further EU affairs experience as Latvia's Deputy of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2003-2004) where he was responsible for Latvia's relations with the EU.

Mr. Pielbags also has experience as Latvia's Finance Minister (1994-1995) and Minister for Education in (1990-1993) and parliamentary experience as chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Piebalgs has a scientific background (he studied physics).

All this means that Piebalgs should be well equipped to take over the post as Commissioner, in particular as he already knows the workings of the EU and has the technical know-how to understand the technicalities in his policy area.

Mr. Piebalgs highlighted the following six main fields of actions for his term:

1. **Better linkage between energy, environment and research;**
2. Ensure the proper functioning of the internal gas and electricity market;
3. **Reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency;**
4. Promote renewable energies;
5. Strengthen nuclear safety;
6. Develop relations with oil and gas producing countries.

European Parliament

F-gases Rapporteur appointed in European Parliament's Environment Committee

As reported by EPEE / Hill & Knowlton on November 3 :

“Avril Doyle (EPP, Ireland) has been appointed as Rapporteur to replace Robert Goodwill on the F-gases dossier. This decision was taken by the Christian Democrat group last week in Strasbourg and has been announced to the wider Committee this week.

Mrs Doyle is Head of Irish Delegation of the EPP-ED Group and has been an MEP (and full member of the Environment Committee) since 1999.

Mrs Doyle full CV can be accessed at: <http://www.avrildoyle.ie/profile.htm>

Her policy focus until now has mainly been on agriculture issues on the agenda of the Committee including the importation and transit of live animals and the availability of veterinary medicinal products.

Her office has cited her interest in climate changes issues in general as her reasons for taking on the F-gases Rapporteurship, but she admits she has much to learn on F-gases specific issues. The Secretariat will compile an information dossier on the EPEE position to be sent through to the MEP in the coming days. She has asked that we allow her sometime to read up on the issues ahead of a first meeting. She did state, once she has read up on the issue, she is very open and interested to meet an EPEE delegation.

She was very supportive of the Goodwill approach in the first reading and described him at the time (to the Secretariat) as a 'safe pair of hands on this dossier.' It remains to be seen however what her specific position is on the various different specific elements in the proposal.

As mentioned already there is no clear timetable for the start up of the Second Reading - it is not expected before Q1-Q2 next year at the earliest. The Second Reading will need to be completed in 3 months (with possibility of extension of one month) timeframe after the formal receipt of the Common Position by the European Parliament.”

News from our Members

A message from VDKF :

CLOSING REPORT

IKK 2004

Super climate

- **New records for International Trade Fair Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Ventilation**

IKK 2004 defies the economic situation: The three-day 25th International Trade Fair Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Ventilation in the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg ended on Friday, 15 October 2004 with an increase of 18 % to 27,752* trade visitors (2002: 23,444*) and a rise of 10 % in the number of exhibitors to 881* (2002: 798*). “We can’t imagine a better jubilee exhibition”, sums up a satisfied Rudolf Pütz, General Manager of VDKF Wirtschafts- und Informationsdienste GmbH, the promoter of IKK.

An excellent mood prevailed among exhibitors and visitors after the three successful days of the exhibition. “The increased attendance is enhanced by the exceptionally successful business done by the exhibitors”, emphasizes Rudolf Pütz.

“The exhibitors are full of praise for IKK”, adds Walter Hufnagel, Member of the Management Board of NürnbergMesse GmbH. “We are delighted that the exhibition has broken all the records especially in the 25th year of its existence, which is the nicest present IKK could give itself to mark the jubilee.

High degree of satisfaction among exhibitors

The exhibitors at IKK 2004 particularly stressed the authority of the trade visitors, of whom some 90 % are decision-makers in their companies. The professional qualifications of the trade visitors were rated as good by 93 % of the exhibitors – figures that speak for themselves.

The need for information often went into detail, as far as firm design solutions: “We have never had so many talks at an exhibition that led to a concrete result or allow reliable expectations of follow-up business; the calibre and international mix of the trade visitors was unique”, was the unanimous opinion of the exhibitors.

This statement is reinforced by the neutral survey of exhibitors: 93 % of the exhibitors rated their participation favourably after three days of exhibiting and 95 % expressed their

satisfaction with the organization and service at IKK 2004. 95 % of the exhibiting companies reached their target groups at IKK 2004.

84 % stated that they had exhibited a new product in Nürnberg or an improvement of existing products that could be described as innovative.

92 % of the exhibitors made new business contacts. Every third exhibitor received a direct order – although the acquisition of direct orders was not a priority for many exhibitors. Consequently, 96 % expect good follow-up business.

The foreign visitors also contribute to this and virtually all exhibitors (96 %) provided information for international trade visitors on their stands. The visitors offered a truly multinational picture: Over 90 nations met at the industry event in Nürnberg and accounted for around 40 % of the total number of visitors. “Exhibition activity at IKK has been characterized by a very large international mix and a rather steady level of attendance from Germany for years. All the more encouraging that this year’s IKK has succeeded in attracting appreciably more visitors from Germany again”, says Christian Scholz, President of VDKF e. V.

The share of international exhibitors was 65 %. The largest international contingent of exhibitors came from Italy with 149 companies.

Quality and quantity of visitors

The response from the visitors was also very good. In a survey conducted by a neutral institute, 97 % of the trade visitors said they were extremely satisfied with the products on display at IKK.

94 % spoke favourably of the information and contact opportunities offered on the exhibition stands at IKK and 96 % said they were satisfied with the organization and service at the trade fair.

The visitors were mainly interested in the product segments of refrigerating systems and plants (49 %), components for refrigerating systems and plants (35 %), cooling units for refrigerated cabinets, cool stores, frozen food stores, cold storage and freezer cells, refrigerating systems for transport, refrigerated containers, accessories for refrigerated and frozen product storage (33 %), measuring instruments for refrigeration and air conditioning (28 %), system equipment for ventilation and air conditioning (24 %), tools and equipment for refrigerating and air conditioning (23 %), and assembly supplies for refrigerating and air conditioning (21 %). (Multiple answers possible).

The main reason for visiting for 51 % of the trade visitors was to see new products, 38 % came to obtain information, 36 % used IKK to cultivate contacts with business partners, 35 % wanted to exchange views and talk to colleagues and 28 % used the trade fair to pave the way for business relations (multiple answers possible).

The Netherlands wins first AREA Skills Competition

The first European Skills Competition for young refrigeration and air conditioning tradesmen organized by AREA (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European Association) was won by the Dutch team before Germany and Sweden, followed by the teams from Great Britain, France, Denmark and Hungary. 7 national teams of two candidates each had taken part in the qualifying contest for the “Morten Arnvig Cup” (founder president of AREA), in which one of the tasks was to build an ice rink. The Skills Competition is part of a Leonardo project sponsored by the EU for harmonizing the trade of refrigeration and air conditioning plant assembler in Europe.

IKK – The place to be

The social highlight of the IKK 2004 Nürnberg jubilee was the IKK Exhibition Get-together with more than 800 participants on Thursday evening. This year's IKK 2004 was once again the place to be for the presentation of the product, consulting and service competence of the international refrigeration, air conditioning and ventilation industry.

The long-term planning reliability offered by IKK is of fundamental importance for national and international exhibitors and trade visitors. Both venues for the exhibition, Nürnberg in the even years and Hannover in the odd years, ideally cover large catchment areas throughout Europe. Only IKK with its annual cycle guarantees a fitting reflection of the national, European and international market activities of these innovative technologies.

IKK 2005 takes place in Hanover from Wednesday to Friday, 2 – 4 November 2005.

Sister Associations

Press Release

The ASERCOM Symposium 2004 – a Successful Event

This year the subject of the ASERCOM Symposium on the day before the IKK Exhibition started was:

"Our Future in Europe: Climate Change – Environment Protection"

An update of new EU and national directives and regulations highlighting the impact on the refrigeration and air conditioning market in Europe

The focus of the event was the F-Gas legislation related to the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the European and national proposals as well as recently enforced regulations. Reference was made to the emission reductions requested for fluorinated gases. Therefore "Containment" was one of the main topics of the presentations and papers that were used on changes and new aspects that have to be considered by industry, contractors and users. In addition, the use of natural refrigerants as alternatives was highlighted. Peter Horrocks of the European Commission gave an update of the F-Gas proposal and this was just two days before the Council of the Environment Ministers was to take its decision. The applications of the various refrigerants – fluorocarbons and their alternatives were presented by Hermann Renz (Bitzer).

On the other hand a paper given by Eberhard Wobst (ILK) demonstrated that the largest potential for CO₂ emission reductions in this market can be achieved by higher system energy efficiency.

In addition, most of the anticipated legislation requested system inspections for leakage reduction. In this respect, the European institutions propose essential requirements and mutual recognition for certification programs, with reference for both the companies and their personnel. Examples have been presented by Robert Berckmans (AREA) and Joop Hoogkamer (NVKL).

A panel discussion – chaired by Johannes Reichelt - has given the 180 plus participants the opportunity to comment on the papers and to get answers to their questions.

An additional part of the symposium was dedicated to other legislative measures like the WEEE/RoHS Directive ruling the disposal of electric and electronic waste and the handling of hazardous substances, this presented by Darcy Nicolle (UTC). Guy Hundy (Copeland) reported of the latest CCCP/TEAP meeting.

EPEE European Partnership for Energy and the Environment

After AREA (President Norman Mitchell) and ASERCOM (Mr. Jochen Winkler), it is the turn of AFCE French Alliance Froid Climatisation Environnement (Mr. François Heyndrickx) to represent the Association Group in the Steering Committee.

International Institute of Refrigeration

Mr. Didier COULOMB is, since October 1, 2004, the new Director of IIR, replacing François Billiard, who had been in office since September 1999.

Writing (November 21) to the Secretary of **REHVA Federation of European Heating and Air conditioning Associations**

Dear Mrs EGLI,

I contact you to ask if we could receive your quarterly Journal, as general information. Our association is European and represent the Air conditioning and REFRIGERATION INSTALLATION industry.

You can discover more about us by visiting www.area-eur.be

I attach a copy of our last monthly newsletter; if REHVA is interested, I could forward our letter regularly.

Being both active as trade associations in the same sectors, I believe it would make sense to know more about each other. I am based near Brussels and would welcome the opportunity of meeting you or any officer of your organization.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Berckmans
Secretary General
AREA
