

### Items covered:

- General Assembly in Nice on April 29-30, 2005	p.2
- Locations of past General Assemblies	p.3
- Editorial	p.4
- Environment - F-gases	
New timeline for the proposed F-gas Regulation	p.5
EC answers EP on the dual legal basis	p.5
US warning about using HC in Mobile Air Conditioning	p.7
- Education & vocational training	
News on The Refrigeration Craftsman (Leonardo) project	p.9
DG Internal Market works on mutual recognition of professional qualifications	p.10
- Technical matters	
TEC issues a position on general leak inspection requirements	p.12
New website on energy efficiency policies and measures	p.14
- Certification	
Interesting comment of British consultant on certification schemes	p.15
- Standardisation	
One more letter to EUROSTAT about NACE coding	p.16
- European Legislation	
Eco-labelling, Eco-design, Energy Performance of Buildings – follow up	p.17
- Sister associations	p.18
ECSLA, EURAMMON, EHPA, CEETB, IACSC	
- Events	p.24

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## **AREA General Assembly and Committee Meetings in Nice on April 2-30**

1<sup>st</sup> row from the left

R. Berckmans (AREA - Bruxelles), A. Sacchi (ATF - Italy), M. Buoni (ATF - Italy), P. Vemork (KELF - Norway) A. Zoltan (HRACA - Hungary), K. Beermann (NKF - Germany), J. Reijmers (Leonardo da Vinci project), P. Tomlein (SZ CHKT - Slovakia)

2<sup>nd</sup> row from the left

J. Hoogkamer (NVKL - Netherlands), R. Pütz (VDKF - Germany), S. Wenzler (VDKF - Germany), P. Bachmann (BIV - Germany), G. Hanssen (KELF - Norway), J. Jacquin (SNEFCCA - France), L. Nordell (KYL - Sweden), J. Dobiasovsky (S CHKT - Czech Rep.), M. Stenzig (ANEFRYC - Spain), W. Stenzig (ANEFRYC - Spain), N. Mitchell (RACG - UK), R. Biffin (BRA/FETA - UK), S. Kerr (IRI - Ireland)

3<sup>rd</sup> row from the left

Y. Lowin (VDKF - Germany), Ph. Roy (SNEFCCA - France), E. Aalto (FREA - Finland), J. Remec (SDHK - Slovenia), G. Michalski (KFC/NRF - Poland), Ch. Scholz (VDKF - Germany), J. Broz (S CHKT - Czech Rep.), G. Fox (RACG - UK), C. Sloan (BRA/FETA - UK), E. Pujol (ANEFRYC/ETPC - Spain)



The recent General Assembly in Nice was successful : constructive work in a friendly atmosphere.

President Jean Jacquin proposed an AREA motto : *Let us not deny our national differences but, on the contrary, let us use them to build together a common European base.*

Do you know that it is close to the motto of the European Union : *United in Diversity!*

By the way, do you know the other EU symbols :



- the flag, blue with its 12 golden stars,
- the anthem, a melody coming from the **Ode to Joy** of the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven
- the day : **May 9**
- and the currency : **€**.

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Where has AREA held its past Spring General Assemblies and Meetings?

Austria

Belgium                      special case : yearly Autumn Assemblies organized by secretariat

Czech Republic

Denmark                      1993-

Finland	2001-
France	1989-1996-2005
Germany	1990-2000 (NKF Springe) - <a href="#">planned on May, 18-19, 2006</a>
Greece	1992-
Hungary	1998-
Italy	
Netherlands	1999-
Norway	1995-2004
Poland	
Slovakia	
Spain	1994-2002-
Sweden	1997-
United Kingdom	1991-2003

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## **Editorial**

Dear Members,

We had indeed very positive meeting sessions in Nice. Thank you!

The short term activities are planned and their objectives relatively secured. As you will read, the Task Force of our Technical & Environment Committee took the bull by the horns and issued a first overall common position on inspection requirements.

The mid term challenges that I foresee are :

- monitoring and adapting to new technologies, equipment and refrigerants;
- being an active player in the harmonization of the required qualifications and certification.

This means need for adequate resources in manpower, expertise and consequently finances.

But we go step by step, Europe won't be built overnight.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Berckmans  
Secretary General

## Environment

### F-Gas Regulation issue

New expected timeline

- July 2005 Formal receipt Common Position by EP  
(time limit 3 (+1) months)
- By end- July Doyle draft report to translation
- 12/14 Sept Discussion report Environment Committee
- 15 Sept Deadline for amendments (flexible date)
- 10/11 Oct Vote Environment Committee
- 24/27 Oct Vote Plenary session / finalised 2nd reading

### Post EP Second Reading

- Nov Commission Position EP 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- Oct/Nov/Dec Council of Ministers Second Reading  
(UK Presidency – 3(+1) month time limit)  
• qualified majority on Parliament's amendments (unanimity vote for amendments where Commission's negative opinion)  
***Act adopted if Council approves all EP amendments, otherwise Conciliation convened within 6 weeks***
- 2 December Environment Council
- 1 January 2006 Start Austrian Presidency (until 1/7)
- Q1 2006 Conciliation Committee (6-8 weeks)
- Q2 2006 Agreement – formal approval EP & Council
- Q2 2007 Entry into force

The European Commission has answered the European Parliament on the issue of the legal basis as follows and publicly supported the dual basis :

Question no 54 by Avril Doyle (H-0232/05)

**Subject: Fluorinated greenhouse gases: dual environment-internal market legal basis**

Given the doubts expressed in Parliament about the legal certainty and applicability of a dual

environment-internal market legal basis in the common position on the proposal for a regulation on certain greenhouse gases (COM(2003)0492 final), and given the environmental objectives underpinning the proposal for a regulation, can the Commission indicate whether it would accept a sole environment legal basis under Article 175 of the Treaty or would it accept a further splitting of the regulation into two separate instruments, with the provisions concerning labelling, control of use and placing on the market being governed by a regulation based on Article 95 of the Treaty and the remainder being governed by a regulation based on Article 175 of the Treaty?

### **Answer**

This important proposal will put in place a legislative framework that will contribute to the reduction of emissions of the fluorinated greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol and thereby help to meet the European Union's and Member States' Kyoto targets and beyond.

In the Political Agreement on the Commission's proposal, reached at Luxembourg on the 14.10.2004, the Council took a decision to change its form. The "package" now consists of two elements, a proposal for a Directive dealing specifically with the issue of hydrofluorocarbons in mobile air conditioning systems in motor vehicles which will become one element of the EC type approval system for cars, and a proposal for a Regulation to cover the remainder of the original Commission proposal.

The Commission agreed to this change of form on the basis that the two elements are considered as an overall integrated package, notably with a view to fully guarantee the environmental ambition of the overall proposal. The Council agreed to this and it is reflected in the recitals to the Political Agreement.

**As regards the legal base, the Commission accepts, as suggested by the Council, that the Directive should be based on Article 95 alone, and that the Regulation should have a dual legal basis of Article 175 and Article 95 in relation to Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Regulation.** This was reflected in the Political Agreement reached in October last year.

The three articles based on Article 95 concern labelling requirements, and marketing and use restrictions. This legal base is the appropriate one considering the clear implications of these articles in terms of single market and free circulation of goods.

**The Commission does not believe that there is a sound case for splitting the Regulation into two separate instruments.** The Regulation and indeed the whole proposal must be seen as an overall package that aims to reduce emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases. This proposal is only a first step, the review clause in the Regulation provides a platform for further evaluation and where appropriate additional measures which need to be handled in a coherent and integrated manner.

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ASERCOM reacted positively to the request of completing the EPEE “Constituency link table of the Members of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament

Message of Mr. Jochen Winkler, President of ASERCOM :

“I am sure that the ASERCOM member companies would assist to pass on the requested messages to the members of the Env. Comm. of the EU Parliament. I have already talked to our Board members and will contact all the others on request of EPEE. Manufacturing plants are more impressive to visit than sales offices etc.. Here the potential candidates and their **EU manufacturing** locations:

**Compressors**

Arctic Circle, Hereford (GB)  
ACC, Barcelona, (E)  
Bitzer, Wuerttemberg and Schkeuditz (D), Portugal  
Bock, Nuertingen (D)  
Copeland, W'dt (B), Berlin (D), N-Ireland, Prague (CZ)  
Danfoss Commercial Compressors, Trevoux (F)  
Embraco, Turin (I), Slovakia  
Frascold, Milan (I)  
Frigopol, Graz (A)  
Dorin, Florence (I)  
Tecumseh, Lyon (F)

**note:** Danfoss Compressors (D), ACC (I and A) manufacture small compressors for household application only (two thirds charged with HCs) and Grasso (NL) and York (DK) manufacture large industrial compressors for Ammonia application predominantly.

**Controls:**

ALCO, Waiblingen (D)  
Danfoss, Nordborg (DK)  
Honeywell, Mosbach (D)  
Kriwan, Forchtenberg (D)”

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**Mobile Air Conditioning**

Comments coming from the USA

Information received from the Mobile Air Conditioning Society on April 25 :

**A Warning to Consumers about Hydrocarbon Refrigerants  
*Common Sense in Protecting the Environment without Endangering Safety***

**(Lansdale, PA) April 25, 2005-**Vehicle manufacturers, automotive parts suppliers, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other organizations are warning car and truck owners to avoid the use of flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants, which are being marketed on the Internet, at flea markets and swap meets, and in some service shops, but are not authorized for this use. In the United States, it is illegal to use hydrocarbon refrigerants to replace CFC-12 used in cars manufactured before 1994. Hydrocarbon refrigerants used in newer vehicles designed for refrigerant HFC-134a will void the air conditioner warranty and

may endanger service technicians. Leaking air conditioning systems charged with hydrocarbons pose serious risks of fire or explosion under the hood or inside the passenger compartment.

“The U.S. EPA urges vehicle owners to do their part to protect the environment and to ensure their own safety by properly servicing air conditioners with refrigerants listed by EPA and recommended by vehicle manufacturers,” said Drusilla Hufford, Director of EPA’s Stratospheric Protection Division. “Professional service includes electronic refrigerant identification, leak testing, leak repair, defective parts replacement, and recovery and recycling of refrigerant.”

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the Mobile Air Conditioning Society Worldwide (MACS), and the vehicle manufacturers, automotive organizations and suppliers listed below agree that hydrocarbons are unsafe as refrigerants in vehicle mobile air conditioning systems designed for CFC-12 and HFC-134a.

“Existing mobile air conditioning systems are not designed to use a hydrocarbon refrigerant that is highly flammable and similar to what supplies the fire in your back yard barbeque.” said Ward Atkinson, Chair of the SAE Interior Climate Control Standards Committee. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have laws prohibiting the use of a flammable refrigerant in mobile air conditioning systems. (Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia).

The motor vehicle service community and environmental authorities are working to phase out the use of CFC-12 refrigerants that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer and to reduce the emissions of HFC-134a, a greenhouse gas. “Professional service protects the environment and saves money,” said Elvis Hoffpauir, president of the Mobile Air Conditioning Society, “Hydrocarbon refrigerants are dangerous products being sold to unsuspecting consumers.”

EPA has found no persuasive evidence that hydrocarbons are safe to use as refrigerants in vehicles designed for non-flammable refrigerants such as CFC-12 or HFC-134a. EPA banned the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants as a replacement for CFC-12 under the authority granted by the Clean Air Act and has authority to take enforcement action to protect the public against companies violating the law.

Companies marketing hydrocarbon refrigerants point out that EPA lacks specific authority to prohibit the use of hydrocarbons to replace HFC-134a. They use this fact to argue that CFC-12 systems converted to an EPA-listed retrofit refrigerant such as HFC-134a can be safely converted to hydrocarbons. There is no evidence to prove that hydrocarbons are safe to use in mobile air conditioning systems designed for either CFC-12 or HFC-134a.

No vehicle manufacturer has endorsed or authorized the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants in current production mobile air conditioning systems and no professional or technical association has approved the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants. Vehicle warranties are voided for any air conditioning system that has been charged with hydrocarbons. Vehicle manufacturers only recognize HFC-134a as acceptable for use in their current mobile air conditioning systems. Easy identification by service technicians using sophisticated refrigerant identifiers will help avoid the risk of explosion and guard against the contamination of equipment when refrigerant is recovered and recycled.



“Every car has a manufacturer’s label under the hood that identifies the recommended refrigerant that is safe to use and that will provide reliable system operation.” said William Hill, General Motors. “Customers should only use the recommended refrigerant.”

“Manufacturers, owners and fleet managers of heavy trucks, buses, rescue and other specialty vehicles will want to take extra efforts to avoid hydrocarbon refrigerants that can endanger drivers and passengers.” said Dr. Alex Moulthanovsky, Vice President of ACC Climate Control.

“Off highway and large commercial vehicles require substantially more refrigerant than a passenger car. Use the refrigerant designed for the system--stay away from hydrocarbon refrigerants.” states Gary Hansen, Vice President of Engineering for Red Dot Corporation.

"The U.S. Army operates fleets of armored tactical vehicles equipped with air-conditioning," said John Manzione, Chief of the Environmental Technology R&D Team at Fort Belvoir, "But we would never jeopardize soldier safety by putting hydrocarbon refrigerants in our vehicles."

### **What Car Owners Can Do to Protect the Environment**

- Service your A/C using quality parts and trained certified technicians.
- Insist that leaks be repaired before systems are recharged.
- Retrofit CFC-12 systems to HFC-134a.
- Service your HFC-134a air conditioner only with HFC-134a.
- Have your refrigerant tested for hydrocarbons if you suspect improper service.

This public service announcement is endorsed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Mobile Air Conditioning Society and supported by ACC Climate Control, AGRAMKOW, AirSept, Association of International Automobile Manufacturers (Aston Martin, Ferrari, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu, Kia, Maserati, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Peugeot, Renault, Subaru, Suzuki and Toyota), Audi, Australian Fluorocarbon Council, Behr, BMW, CalsonicKansei, DaimlerChrysler, Delphi, Federation of Automotive Products Manufacturers (Australia), Eaton Corporation, Ford, General Motors, Goodyear, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, Manuli Automotive, Modine, Neutronics, Red Dot Corporation, RTI Technologies, Sanden, Spectronics Corporation Tracer Products Division, Transpro, U.S. Army, UView Ultraviolet Systems, Valeo, Vehicle Airconditioning Specialists of Australia, and Volvo Car Corporation.

### **Education & vocational training**



Leonardo da Vinci

### **The Refrigeration Craftsman project**

AREA/Leonardo Project EUR/02/C/F/NT- 84604

Agreement N° 2002-4549/001-001LE2X

## Call for competing teams for the Second AREA European Skills Competition, Hanover, IKK 2005, November 2-4.

The Partners from FRANCE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, the NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN and UNITED KINGDOM have confirmed their participation. The SPANISH partner has still to confirm.

DENMARK and ITALY are considering their participation.

There is still room as TEN competing teams are expected this year.

For any question, please contact MM. Jan Reijmers ([janreijmers@planet.nl](mailto:janreijmers@planet.nl)) or Karsten Beermann ([k.beermann@k-i-n.com](mailto:k.beermann@k-i-n.com)).

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Comment received from Mr. Peter Tomlein on May 8 :

“As I have already mentioned on the SAPC meeting, we see as very:

- Ø Clear and understandable not only for us, but for members of EU administration, our partners and so on,
- Ø Strategic for future development, if there is European Standard EN 13313 introduced as one of the basic documents in part 4 Vocational educations / training and certification.

Then we can:

- Ø Build reliably national vocational education schemes in the mutual conformity (*not in the schools, but in the training systems*).
- Ø Define clearly requirements for basic craftsman - category B (... , leakage testing) and craftsman of category C including inspections with diagnostic of energy efficiency and so on.
- Ø Maybe build a Leonardo project on working out all the modules in this standard.

If the EN 13313 is not a basic document, the situation during formulating -Minimum requirements for RAC training and certification programs- could be unclear and two parallel documents about the same problem could be valid without mutual conformity.”

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DG Internal Market is making progress

### **Acknowledgement of qualifications**

There's nothing simpler than going to work in another Member State. Nothing simpler in theory since it is one of the rights guaranteed by the European treaties. But in practice it is not automatic since in order to undertake a profession you must prove your qualifications. The Union is struggling to establish an efficient joint system to acknowledge qualifications. The adoption of the report written by Stefano Zappalà (PPE-DE, IT), that enjoys the unanimous support of the Commission for the Internal Market, should enable the procedure to move forwards.

## **Internal Market**

**Mutual recognition of professional qualifications**



**Stefano ZAPPALÀ (EPP-ED, IT)**

**Report on the Council common position for adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (13781/2/2004 – C6 0008/2005 – 2002/0061(COD))**

**Doc.: [A6-0119/2005](#)**

**Procedure : Codecision (2nd reading)**

**Debate : 10.05.2005**

For forty years the EU has been trying to set up a system for the mutual recognition of qualifications to allow people to exercise their profession in Member States other than their own. Parliament is now to consider a second reading report drafted by Stefano ZAPPALÀ (EPP-ED, IT) on a directive aiming to make real progress on the issue. It covers all kinds of cases: salaried and liberal professions, the provision of temporary services and "*regulated*" professions such as doctors, nurses and architects. Qualifications will in future be recognised on the basis of coordinated minimum training standards.

An EU national wishing to have access to a regulated profession will be subject to the same conditions, in terms of qualifications, as nationals of the host country. This rule applies, for example, to the certificates of competence or the training qualifications required. The individuals concerned must meet a number of conditions, for example they must show evidence of having a level of training at least equivalent to the level immediately below that required in the host Member State. The directive lays down a number of reference levels reflecting levels of education and training, which in turn enable equivalences to be established between levels of qualifications in different Member States.

The Internal Market Committee wants to increase the number of reference levels to five, as it did at first reading, (the Council is proposing only four). The committee has redefined some reference levels to reflect better the education and training levels in different Member States. The professions affected by these measures are listed, by level, in the annexes.

In a number of amendments, the report looks at the role played by professional bodies in the procedure for recognising qualifications. To streamline the management of the various recognition regimes set up by different sectoral directives and the general system, a single committee for the recognition of professional qualifications will be created to replace the existing bodies. Given the differing national systems and the number of qualifications, professions and skills, MEPs want representatives of the professional categories concerned to take part in this committee.

To smooth freedom of movement and professional mobility, the Internal Market Committee is proposing the introduction of an individual professional card. This would contain information on the worker's career (training, experience and any penalties imposed relating to his profession) and would speed up the exchange of information between the country of origin and the host country.

The directive on the recognition of professional qualifications is closely linked to the services directive. The aim is to make it easier to provide services throughout the EU while enabling the Member States to supervise the conditions under which a worker from another Member State is allowed practise his profession on their territory. By comparison with the Commission's initial proposal, which favoured easier access and backed the principle of supervision by the country of origin, the current text gives the host country greater powers to check qualifications and to make the right to practise a profession subject to certain constraints, e.g. in the name of the public interest. Safeguards to prevent abuses have also been added to the original text, for example to prevent recognition of a qualification obtained in another Member State being used to circumvent higher standards in the country of origin or to ensure that someone providing temporary services is not acting as a front for a company which has in reality set up shop in another country.

Further talks have taken place between representatives of Parliament, the Commission and Council aiming to reach a compromise before the plenary votes.

For the readers interested in reading the official documents, please visit :  
[http://www.europarl.eu.int/commonpositions/2005/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/commonpositions/2005/default_en.htm)

and slide down to the proposed Directive (COD) 2002/0061 (close to 300 pages!).

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### **Note from the Secretary General**

My nearly daily contacts at the EU level make me understand that we are irreversibly going to the harmonisation of required professional qualifications and certification programmes. Who else better than AREA should be there when it comes to specifying the requirements concerning our RAC trade? Nobody.

Our Leonardo 1 project has achieved a first result. More should be targeted for : more levels of qualifications, more applications with specific equipment and refrigerant, criteria for certification, ... AREA will not be in a position to achieve these objectives with only the voluntary work of the CQC. Outside consultants specialized in VET should be employed and follow the pace of the progress of the European Authorities. To pay their costs, the budget 2006 and onwards should address this issue. Some European funds could be found in DG Education. We have decided in Nice not to apply in September 2005, we have to think twice about September 2006. Another project should mainly consists of surveys, analysis, recommendations for harmonized requirements and the output should be in electronic format (internet, CD Rom).

Latest news : we have just received an invitation from the Dutch National Agency (in charge of monitoring the Refrigeration Craftsman project) to attend a meeting in Utrecht on June 9 : AREA has a good chance of getting a second Leonardo project welcome by the Leonardo administration.

### **Technical matters**

#### **Leak inspection**

The article 3 - Containment of the proposed F-gas Regulation stipulates that the Commission shall establish standard inspection requirements for each of the applications covered in the Regulation.

The UK Government will help the Commission and propose a paper on the subject. Here is a first discussion document issued by the British DTI :

#### *Discussion Paper on Leakage Inspection*

Article 3 of the f-gas Regulation states that a specified list of stationary applications containing 3kg or more of fluorinated greenhouse gases shall be inspected for leakage by certified personnel. By the date of entry in to force of the Regulation, the Commission will need to establish the standard inspection requirements for this provision.

The Commission has already indicated that in establishing the standard inspection requirements the following issues should be considered:

- The technical nature of the equipment subject to leakage inspections;

- The inspection regimes already established in some Member States and best practice;
- Existing European standards and other standards in relation to inspections, and;
- The need to minimise leakage without excessively impeding operating requirements.

The purpose of this note is to stimulate discussion about what “standard inspection requirements” could entail for each of the applications referred to in paragraph 1, and to formulate ideas that are both workable and do not involve disproportionate costs.

Article 3(5) says that for fire protection systems, where there is an existing inspection regime to meet ISO 14520 standard, these inspections may fulfill the requirements of the Regulation as long as those inspections are at least as frequent.

We would like your opinions on: -

- What should “inspected for leakage” entail?
- Does an inspection regime already exist? If so, what is it?
- Should “direct or indirect methods” of locating leaks be identified or left unspecified?
- What parts of the system should an inspection focus on?
- Would a national accredited ‘standard’ be one way of helping companies comply?
- What kind of inspection regime would work for your sector(s)?
- What won’t work?
- What measures would you consider putting in place to prevent leakage?

The full text of Article 3 – containment (as it stands in the text agreed at the October 2004 Environment Council) is reproduced overleaf for ease of reference.

#### ANSWERS FROM TASK FORCE 1 OF AREA TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- What should “inspected for leakage” entail?  
AREA TEC position: [Visual inspection and the use of proprietary leak detection tools and equipment.](#)
- Does an inspection regime already exist? If so, what is it?  
AREA TEC position: [Inspection regimes already exist only where owners of plant have arranged thorough preventative maintenance programmes normally by contracting in competent companies. The extent of the regime would normally consist of operational checks to ensure efficiency levels are maintained \(thereby using an “indirect” method of inspection for leaks\). This may be coupled with visual or “direct” checks. Some EU member states have national legislation incorporating this item.](#)
- Should “direct or indirect methods” of locating leaks be identified or left unspecified?  
AREA TEC position: [Both methods should be specified. A visual inspection will provide answers sometimes to the possibility of leaks but operational checks will also warn of underlying potential problems associated with leakage as well as highlighting other potential problems that will affect efficiency.](#)
- What parts of the system should an inspection focus on?  
AREA TEC position: [A leak is most likely to occur where a joint has been made \(i.e. at flared couplings or on isolating valves with a shaft seal\). The most important part of a visual inspection should concentrate on these areas. A quick check over accessible pipework should also be carried out with a visual inspection of condenser and evaporator coils.](#)
- Would a national accredited ‘standard’ be one way of helping companies comply?

AREA TEC position: An EU wide accredited standard outlining minimum standards would help compliance by maintenance contractors and aid plant owners in ensuring they are complying with all regulations.

- What kind of inspection regime would work for your sector(s)?

AREA TEC position: The works outlined in answer 1 should be part of a maintenance regime. This would also be sufficient in complying with EPBD requirements where equipment efficiencies are checked.

- What won't work?

AREA TEC position: A voluntary scheme will not work. Visual inspection only will not work. Legislation to ensure company and operative competence will be necessary to ensure the Regulation works.

- What measures would you consider putting in place to prevent leakage?

AREA TEC position: Ensuring that both companies and operatives are competently trained will improve industry standards generally. Making owners accountable for refrigerant use will ensure that they employ responsible contractors. Regulating the sale of refrigerant gases will prevent handling by non-competent people.

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A conference is organized in London, on June 21, 2005, on this very topic.

Preventing Refrigerant Leakage  
How to ensure cost-effective containment  
To comply with the F-gas Regulation  
And optimise plant efficiency

Phone +44 20 7505 6044, Fax +44 20 7505 6001, [conferences@emap.com](mailto:conferences@emap.com)

At 3.30 pm, Mr. Steve Crocker, Secretary of REFCOM, will be a speaker on “a practical action plan for end-users : preventing and containing leaks”.

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### Energy efficiency

EPEE informed about the link below, a link to a new website on energy efficiency policies and measures managed by the International Energy Agency. It could be quite a useful tool when searching for individual measures or monitoring energy efficiency policies in different regions or countries members of the IEA.

<http://www.iea.org/textbase/effi/index.asp>

The website offers a worldwide compilation of recent government actions to improve energy efficiency in the IEA member countries. This compilation can be searched by country, sector, and type of policy.

Contact: [alan.meier@iea.org](mailto:alan.meier@iea.org)

## Certification

Extract of a report prepared by Mrs. Carolyn George, consultant with Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd (London), dated on 27 April 2005, commenting on a mandatory and/or voluntary European scheme taking some or all element of the Dutch STEK and concerning mobile refrigeration.

*Risk & Policy Analysts*

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### **ANALYSIS OF THE COSTS AND THE IMPACT ON EMISSIONS OF REGULATORY MEASURES FOR REDUCING EMISSIONS OF HYDROFLUOROCARBONS, PERFLUOROCARBONS AND SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE IN FOAMS AND MOBILE REFRIGERATION IN THE ROAD TRANSPORT SECTOR**

#### **Study for DG Environment, European Commission**

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#### **2.2 Option 1: Improved Handling/Maintenance of Refrigerants and Equipment**

A number of countries already have schemes or legislation which require the registration of refrigerant handlers and specify minimum qualification levels for such personnel. In the Netherlands, a mandatory system (STEK) is in place, which involves close cooperation between the industry, trade associations and regulatory bodies. Actions such as quality assurance schemes for contractors, use of leakage detection systems and comprehensive monitoring of refrigerants has reportedly resulted in reduced emissions rates.

By way of example, STEK includes:

- certification of individuals;
- registration of contractors;
- registration of equipment over 500 watts compressor power input;
- technical requirements for equipment design and manufacture;
- auditing of companies;
- monitoring of refrigerant use;
- training.

Owners or users of equipment filled with HFCs are obliged by law to have their equipment serviced and repaired by a company approved by STEK. However, registration is not a precondition for purchase of refrigerants under STEK.

An extension of such schemes to all EU Member States could improve consistency for operators (especially given the international nature of the industry), improve monitoring of use and emissions of HFCs, and facilitate action to reduce the level of emissions.

A European scheme could involve some or all elements of the existing STEK scheme and/or introduce new elements. In addition, it could involve a mixture of mandatory and voluntary aspects depending on the degree of international compatibility required.

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## **Standardisation**

### NACE codes

Letter sent by the Secretariat :

**EUROSTAT**  
**Mr. Daniel Defays**  
**Head of Unit B-1**  
**Mr. Michael Mietzner**  
Bâtiment Jean Monnet  
Rue Alcide de Gasperi  
L – 2920 Luxembourg

May 23, 2005

Dear Sirs,

Re : draft NACE 2007 code for our trade/activities :  
Installation, maintenance and repair of refrigeration and air conditioning and heat pump equipment

I thank you very much for your letter ESTAT D(2005)/B1/DD/dj/10044 of April 14 which offers a constructive compromise and explains well the situation with ISIC.

I conveyed and explained this position to our Members (20 National Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Associations). They asked me to insist one more time to consider moving the “installation / maintenance / repair of refrigeration / air conditioning / heat pump equipment” to division 32/33.

The reason therefore, which is essential to our Members, is that our contractors / installers have to comply with specific European Directives and Norms not applicable to the construction industry.

One example : the compliance with the Pressure Equipment Directive implies that the installer is regarded as a manufacturer of the system to be assembled which has to be CE marked.

This definitely concerns refrigeration equipment. To a certain extent, it is less important to AC and HP pump equipment.

Thanking you for looking again at our request and staying at your disposal for any further information, we remain,

Yours truly,

Robert H. Berckmans  
Secretary General



## European legislation

### Ecolabelling

Secretary General had a meeting with Mrs. Kerstin Sahlen of the Swedish Ecolabelling Board. DG Environment is indeed responsible for an Ecolabelling Directive which requires the Member States to set up national Boards. The objective is to develop, in an harmonized way, labelling criteria for groups of products. It is important to state that any measures coming out of this initiative are VOLUNTARY for the industry (in fact, the restrictive conditions on minimum energy efficiency are already set by the Ecodesign Directive). The Swedish Board is the leader in developing criteria for heating systems and they have started last year with the Heat Pumps. The results of the Swedish work is expected in 2006.

### Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Secretary Berckmans had the opportunity to meet Mr. Johann Zirgibl, Convenor of TC 228 (CEN).

He explained that CEN had been mandated (Mandate n° 343) to help the implementation of EPBD (the transposition in the Member States is scheduled in January 2006!).

The TC in charge are :

TC 89 for the Building envelope

TC 156 for Ventilation and Cooling

TC 228 for Heating

and TC 247 for Controls.

The work of CEN has started too late compared to the transposition deadline.

For the time being there is only a poor coordination between TC 156 and TC 228.

Mr. Zirgibl explained that the calculation methods and system evaluations would eventually have to follow recommendations to be included in European Norms. However the formulas and methods recommended will have to use parameters to be supplied by the Member States (and sometimes by Regions). The compliance with the National Building Codes will remain.

To the remark “the Directive does not say what are the remedies to be taken after a regular inspection of the building HVCA system”, he answered that the EN standards will also come up with recommendations of measures but that the Member States will be responsible to stipulate and enforce corrective work or replacement of unsatisfactory systems.

Information received from Mr. Mike Duggan, FETA :

### Eco-design proposal update

On 7 April, representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the eco-design proposal. They worked out a number of compromise amendments and a general compromise position, including on the legal base and on Article 13 (2) which contains provisions on HVAC equipment. The Council has agreed that if the Parliament was to adopt the compromise amendments as they stand in the document attached to this email, it will also accept them. This would avoid the issue going into conciliation.

Legal base

The sole legal base will remain Article 95 - as proposed in the Council Common Position of November 2004 -, despite the European Parliament's Environment Committee's position to base the proposal on Article 95 and Article 175 EC Treaty. In addition, the first compromise amendment also introduces a Recital 8a which allows Member States *"to maintain national provisions on the ground of major needs relating to the protection of the environment or to introduce new ones based on scientific evidence relating to the protection of the environment on grounds of a problem specific to that Member State...."*

Article 13 (2)

Contrary to the Common Position, the compromise mentions HVAC systems. It states that *"The Commission shall as appropriate introduce ....implementing measures starting with those products which have been identified by the ECCP as offering a high potential for cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, such as.....HVAC systems; "*

## **Sister Associations**

**ECSLA** European Cold Storage and Logistics Association

ECSLA is interested in coordinating the respective positions of both associations on the HCFC Regulation and the proposed HFC Regulation. ECSLA members are finding it hard to cope with the very different national schemes regulating the installation of ammonia systems and would like to obtain an inventory of the existing national legislative programmes that are presently causing some distortion in the Internal Market.

ECSLA proposes to organize a joint conference on these issues, in Brussels, on November 23, 2005, just after AREA' s General Meetings and Assembly.

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## **EURAMMON**

The Secretary General met Mr. Georges HOETERICKX, Board Member of Eurammon on May 17.

The best way to describe Eurammon is to reproduce the presentation on their website :

### **eurammon - Initiative for natural refrigerants**

eurammon is a joint initiative by companies, institutions and individuals committed to increasing the use of natural refrigerants.

### **Goals and objectives**

eurammon sees itself as a centre of competence for the use of natural working fluids in refrigeration. The initiative sees its mission in providing a platform for information and knowledge sharing.

The objective is to boost the general awareness and acceptance of natural refrigerants, to promote their use in the interests of a healthy environment, and to thereby continue developing a sustainable approach to refrigeration.

eurammon's information efforts are targeted at professionals (users and planners) as much as at politicians and the politically interested public as well as the public at large. Sustainable business is a

topic that concerns us all. That is why eurammon is happy to provide information to all interested parties.

### **Shaping the future**

eurammon embraces social responsibility. As a partner to politics, business and non-governmental organisations, the association contributes to developing and implementing shared future-proof solutions in refrigeration. Refrigeration must do its part for sustainability - this applies particularly for aspects of this technology that affect our climate, but also for all other effects on the environment.

### **Development of innovative refrigeration technology**

eurammon brings technical experts from the field of industrial refrigeration together with scientists, and thereby contributes to accelerating the evolution of innovative approaches and viable technologies.

### **Consulting and professional information**

Operators and planners of refrigeration projects can turn to eurammon for comprehensive information and a competent contact. eurammon delivers consulting on all matters associated with planning, permits and operation of major refrigeration plants, providing specific project experience as well as extensive informational material. This includes in particular the institutional legislation for the various European countries, along with technical guidelines for the operation of refrigeration plants.

### **International focus**

Technologies that affect our climate don't stop at national borders. This is why eurammon champions sustainable solutions in refrigeration at national and international levels. eurammon unites leading global companies in refrigeration and in the field of natural refrigerants. eurammon has an excellent global network of co-operation agreements and memberships with international associations and institutions. The initiative is open to European companies and institutions interested in natural refrigeration, but also to individuals, e.g. from science and research.

So first point : the scope of Eurammon is not limited to ammonia but covers the so-called natural refrigerants, with CO<sup>2</sup> being first in priority.

Eurammon was not aware of the scope of representation and activities of AREA. The meeting has helped to highlight the interest in working together.

The portfolio of qualifications and skills needed and the criteria for compulsory certifications appeared as important items where both associations could bring their expertise and experience.

Eurammon will have a speaker at the AREA General Assembly to be held in Brussels on November 22.

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### **EHPA European Heat Pump Association General Assembly, Brussels, April 22**

Secretary General Berckmans attended the meeting. AREA has been reinstated as EHPA Member.

Chairman Rayner Mayer insisted on the importance of cooperating, especially on vocational training and education matters. The next EHPA Education Committee (Committee Chair is Raphaela Boeswarth, of Arsenal Research in Vienna) will meet in Sweden on June 27-28 and AREA is invited (*maybe our Swedish Member, KYL, could represent us?*).

Presently EHPA is actively working on

- training courses for heat pump installers
- the setting up of a certification board at the European level (they study the possibility of a link to EN 17024)

- training courses on the use of renewable energy
- the accreditation scheme for these courses.

Secretary Berckmans will meet Vice Chairwoman, Brigitte Bach, on her next stay in Brussels, to start organizing some procedure for collaboration.

Chairman Mayer explained the huge potential for HP equipment in Europe, which is helped by the high oil prices (\$50 a barrel that might rise to \$100 in 5 years ...).

*Editor's note : the approach of EHPA is definitely the one of the heating sector. AREA should take the opportunity of joining the EHPA actions to bring in the expected "cooling" approach.*

### EHPA applies for a new project

Reaching the Kyoto targets by means of a wide introduction of ground source heat pumps (GSHP) in the built environment

Acronym: GROUND-REACH

Objectives:

- Evaluate the importance of ground coupled heat pumps in reaching the Kyoto targets
- Exhibit the merits and benefits of ground coupled heat pumps
- Evaluate the importance of ground coupled heat pumps towards the implementation of the buildings performance directive
- Drafting long term dissemination plan for ground coupled heat pumps for removal of barriers to market penetration
- Launch a short term European promotion campaign for rapid market penetration of ground coupled heat pumps, targeting key professional groups
- Assist European Commission with wider dissemination activities

Description:

The work will be grouped in the following work packages:

WP1: Leader SVEP

Estimating the potential of ground coupled heat pumps for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and primary energy demand for heating and cooling purposes in the built environment: evaluation of available statistical information, definition of competing heating/cooling technologies, analysis of existing calculation tools, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions calculation.

WP2: Leader FIZ

Compiling and evaluating existing ground coupled heat pumps best practice information in Europe: identifying and updating information from all European member states, including case studies, technical guidelines and standards.

WP3: Leader Arsenal

Analysing the contribution of heat pump technologies to reach the objectives of the Building Performance Directive: Analysis of the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of ground coupled heat pump technologies; Guideline for supporting planners and architects in detailed technical aspects and in general questions.

WP4: Leader Ecofys

Defining measures to overcome barriers for broader market penetration and setting up a long term dissemination plan: identification of market barriers including legal/ regulatory, economical and technical, proposals for long term EU level interventions to overcome them, including a new directive on RES-Heat.

WP5: Leader CRES

Launching a large scale promotional campaign at European level: promotional material, interactive Internet site, setting-up the European Geothermal Heat Pump Committee, publications to public, technical and trade press, organising the ground coupled heat pumps European conference and exhibition, a series of regional meetings targeting key professional groups.

WP6: Leader CRES

Common dissemination activities: contributions to the IntellEbase, participation in horizontal/thematic contractors meetings, participation in conferences, exhibitions, production of visuals and abstracts etc. according to Commission requests.

Expected Results:

The GROUND-REACH project, through the reports on the EU market for ground coupled heat pumps (present status, future potential, contribution towards EU policy and directives), the publications about best practices and guidelines for local/regional authorities and key professional groups, conference, meetings, website, brochure and other promotional tools, is expected to effectively assist EU policy towards both short and long term market penetration of ground coupled heat pumps as it will provide:

- better understanding of ground coupled heat pumps merits and benefits and their importance towards Community policy objectives in relation to Kyoto targets and the buildings performance directive.
- increased awareness and improved knowledge and perception of the ground coupled heat pumps technology among key European professional groups for short term market penetration.
- identification of barriers and strategic dissemination plan for long term market penetration.

Project Partners:

- 1 CRES (GR) Coordinator
- 2 EGEN (IAG)
- 3 EHPA (IAG)
- 4 Arsenal Research (AT)
- 5 BRGM (FR)
- 6 ECOFYS (NL)
- 7 Energy Efficiency Agency EEA (BG)
- 8 EST Setubal (PT)
- 9 FIZ (DE)
- 10 Geoteam (AT)
- 11 GtV (DE)
- 12 Punti Energia (IT)
- 13 SVEP (SE)
- 14 University of Oradea (RO)
- 15 BESEL (ES)
- 16 COWI (DK)
- 17 Ellehauge & Kildemoes (DK)
- 18 VITO (BE)

- 19 ADEME (FR)
- 20 NAPE (PL)
- 21 EnPro (UK)
- 22 GFE (IT)

The consortium comprises two IAG and 20 partners from 15 countries. The two IAG shall be leading the Joint European GSHP Committee, 10 partners are forming the core group, while the remaining 12 partners shall support dissemination activities on national or regional level.

Budget:

Total amount approximately: 1.75 Mio €

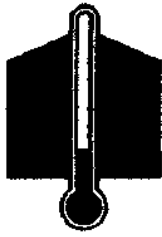
EC funding requested: 50%

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**CEETB**, the European Technical Contractors Committee for the Construction Industry, has issued its annual report 2004 “Building comfort efficiently”.

We remind that GCI (HVAC) and UICP (Roofing and Plumbing) have merged and been integrated in CEETB where they work closely with AIE (Electrical). All three are represented by an expert, Mr. Jaap Hogeling, in TC 156 (Ventilation in buildings, air conditioning loads and inspections) and TC 228 (Heating systems, loads and inspections).

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**IACSC**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLD STORAGE CONSTRUCTION  
(EUROPEAN DIVISION)**

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**Overview of IACSC (European Division) Conference  
at the Haycock Hotel, Wansford on 16 June 2005**

**“IACSC 2005 - Technical and Personnel Challenges”**

The morning session is devoted to important technical issues which relate to the vexed question of how temperature-controlled insulation structures react in a fire, and whether or not a structure can be deemed to be “fire-stable” - aspects of which are dealt with in the IACSC Guide on *Design Specifications Construction and Fire Management of temperature-controlled Insulated Structures*.

The first presentation deals with “*Why Composite Panels Fail in a Fire*” and possible ways of how to reduce such failure, and this leads into the Joint Proposals (BRE/IACSC) for EXAP (Extended Field of Application of Insulating Sandwich Panels) which defines the height to which buildings can be built. Basically this is a proposal providing reasonably flexible rules/measures to allow more accurate extrapolation of the results of fire tests on insulating panels by designers/construction engineers so that insulated structures may be built at heights above 8-10 metres with a reasonable degree of assurance that they will remain stable in the event of a fire. It is a difficult and complex matter, and needs resolution if panel manufacturers, installation contractors, end-users and fire services are to be confident of the outcome of an insulated structure attacked by a serious fire. The correct extrapolation of EXAP is important since it could well impact on the building’s warranty.

*(Note: A draft CEN Standard on EXAP is at an advanced state of development and BRE/IACSC has concerns about major aspects of the document).*

The subsequent presentation on “*CE Marking of Panels*” throws up some of the difficulties of “deliverability” of the concept (which is part of the Construction Products Directive) in the UK/North West Europe, and the final presentation in the morning highlights the difficulty of arbitration in the event of experiencing a “problem” contract - a not unusual event.

The afternoon session focuses on the introduction of NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) to the temperature-controlled/ambient construction industry, and is designed to highlight the advances in training, qualifications and expertise of individuals and companies involved in erecting insulating panel structures. This gives an added assurance to end-users/insurers that the structures are correctly built.

All in all the Conference exemplifies the way in which the IACSC (European Division) is moving to meet the increasingly complex technical and human resource challenges affecting our industry. Designers, architects, construction engineers and end-users will find much to interest them and we look forward to their attendance.

**HEAD OFFICE IACSC**

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## Events

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive : Understanding what is required to meet government legislation by 2006

Copthorne Tara Hotel, London W8 on July 14

Heating and Ventilation News Conferences, fax +44 20 7505 6001, [conferences@emap.com](mailto:conferences@emap.com)

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Intersolar 2005 : trade fair for solar technology

Freiburg im Breisgau, June 23-25

Fax +49 761 70 98 85

[info@intersolar.de](mailto:info@intersolar.de)

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The Institute of Refrigeration 2005 Annual Conference

“The Future of Cooling”, London 10th November 2005.

The conference will cover:

- What is environmentally acceptable cooling?
- Getting building and process design right
- Making the right choice when retrofitting
- Practical implications of F-Gas directive and Revised Part L
- Leakage detection and reduction

Visit [www.ior.org.uk/conf05](http://www.ior.org.uk/conf05) for more details

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> Climate World Moscow (Air conditioning and ventilation fair) will take place at the Exhibition Centre Crocus Expo on March 14-17, 2006

Fax : + 43 1 402 89 54 54, [www.msi-fairs.com](http://www.msi-fairs.com)

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