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## **European F-gas Regulation and AREA Skills Competition**

### **Proposed F-gas Regulation**

The Air conditioning and Refrigeration European Association AREA, representing the European refrigeration contractors / installers, welcomes the Political Agreement reached on October 14, by the 25 Member States meeting in the Environment Council in Luxembourg, on the proposal for an EU Regulation on fluorinated gases to control and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.

The Article 3 – Containment of the proposed Regulation organizes the mandatory inspections of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump systems by qualified and certified refrigeration personnel. Its specific aim is to prevent leakage, to repair as soon as possible after a detection of leaks and to monitor the installations.

The Article 5 – Training and Certification is the most important to us.

By the date of entry into force of the Regulation, on the basis of information received from Member States and in consultation with the relevant sectors, the Commission shall establish minimum requirements and mutual recognition for training programmes and certification for the relevant personnel and for the companies and their personnel. Within one year of the date of entry into force of this Regulation, Member States shall establish or adapt their own training and certification requirements, on the basis of the minimum requirements referred to above. Member States shall notify the Commission of their training and certification programmes.

### **The AREA – Leonardo da Vinci project “The European Refrigeration Craftsman”**

AREA started, in early 2003, with the support of the European Commission, a European survey, interviewing 355 refrigeration craftsmen about more than 325 activities performed in the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors. 165 activities were finally selected as the common and representative activities of the basic European refrigeration craftsman.

A portfolio of the qualifications and skills needed to work in the field of refrigeration and air conditioning with excellent craftsmanship was established, listing the activities that the European basic refrigeration craftsman has to be capable of performing, the applicable European norms / regulations or directives and which national authority is responsible for certifying the required competence. The AREA portfolio can serve as a guideline when establishing the essential / minimum requirements mentioned in the proposed Regulation.

**The AREA first European Skills Competition, Nürnberg, October 13-15, 2004**

This skills competition that took place at IKK 2004, was designed to give a practical demonstration of the AREA portfolio of the necessary qualifications and competence.

Seven teams of two young craftsmen competed to win the title of best refrigeration craftsmen 2004 and the Morten Arnvig Memorial Award.

The 3-day competition covered the following main tasks :

- completing the installation of a refrigeration system designed to build an ice rink, including component fabrication, brazing, refrigerant handling;
- featuring energy saving while installing a copper coil de-heater to produce hot water;
- servicing while finding a fault and repairing.

The jury consisted of three experienced experts from the World Skills organization. The jury marked the participants on the base of the AREA portfolio. AREA warmly thanked the generous sponsors who funded more than 150,000 EUR in value, in supplying equipment, materials and services to the competition.

The results were :

<b>Max.</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>H</b>
830	805,7	764,4	686,9	686,9	635,1	569,2	496,1
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

The winners are Peter van Rooy and Ralph Beelen from the Netherlands.

The initiative of this first European Skills Competition was enthusiastically welcome by the numerous visitors, industry representatives, vocational education and training bodies, national trade associations and official authorities.

German speed skating junior champion Judith Hesse and former Olympic bronze medallist ice hockey player Bo Berglund entertained the public at the prize ceremony.

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