



QUARTERLY PERIODICAL FOR THE EUROPEAN CONTRACTORS SOCIETY WORKING
IN THE REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMP SECTOR
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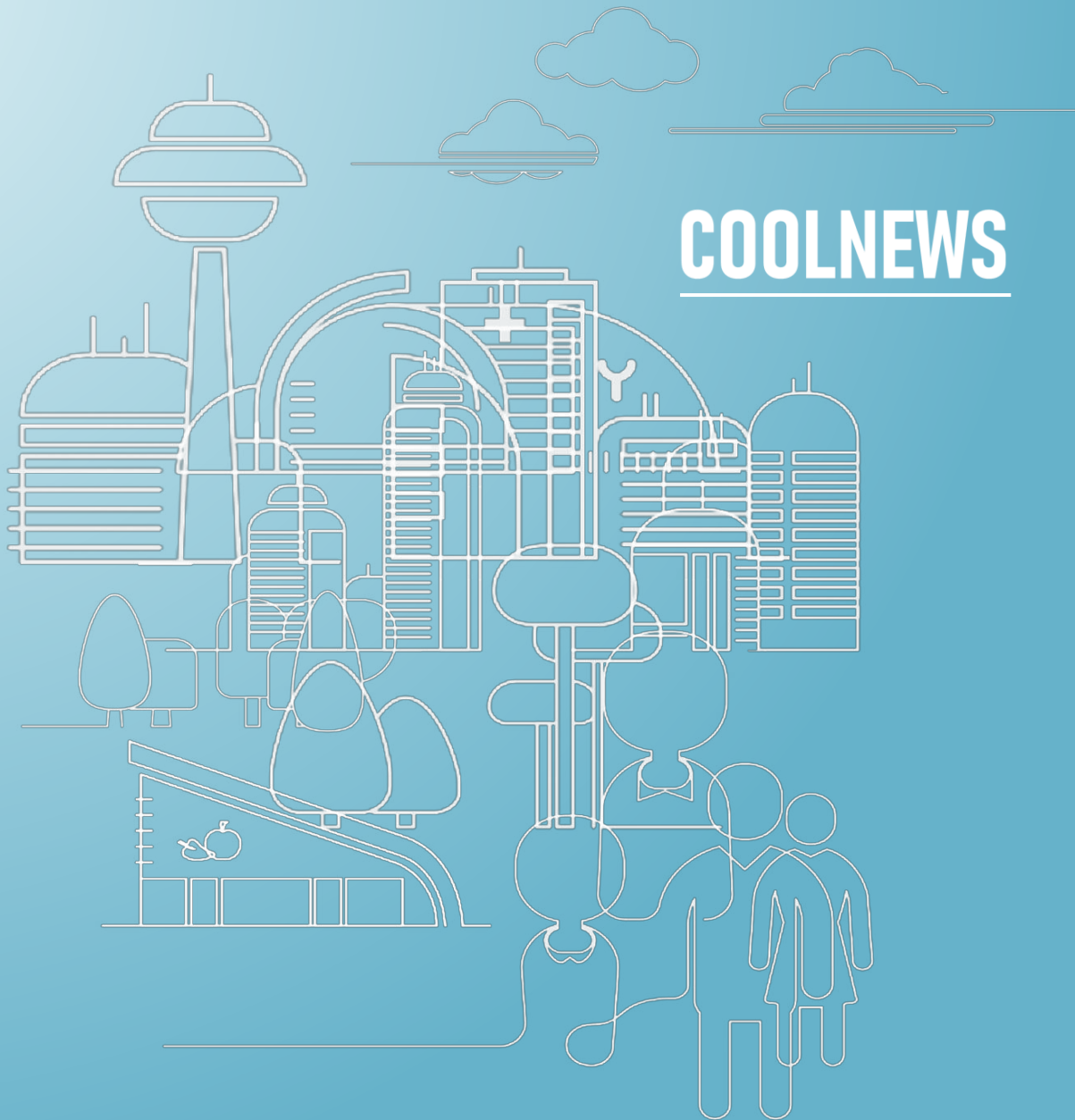
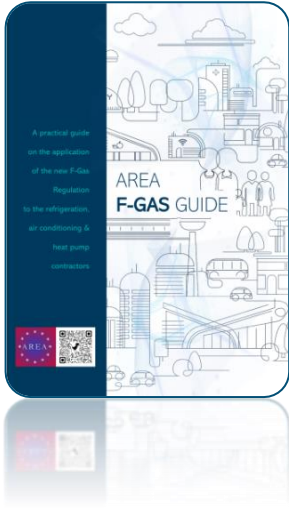


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AREA AFFAIRS

AREA RELEASES ITS NEW F-GAS GUIDE



The new F-Gas Regulation applies since 11 March 2024 and gives RACHP contractors a new set of requirements to deal with.

The AREA Guide on the application of the new F-Gas Regulation to RACHP contractors presents the main changes in comparison with the previous Regulation, explains the new rules, their impact and their practical application. It also includes a table summarising the certification requirements and a specific chapter on the Implementing Act 2024/2215.

This guide is a living document that will be updated and completed following experience and after the adoption of relevant implementing legislation. It is already [available](#) in English, Italian, Swedish and Turkish.

WOMEN IN COOLING VIDEO COMPETITION- 3RD EDITION!



AREA and World Refrigeration Day (WRD) have launched the third edition of the video competition on best practices for EU women in cooling.

The challenge is to provide a video on one of the following themes:

- Category A - RACHP Best Practice Mastery:
Handling of a refrigeration, air-conditioning or heat pump system
- Category B - RACHP Design Excellence:
Design and application of RACHP systems

The video must be posted privately on [AREA's Facebook page](#) or sent to info@area-eur.be by Sunday 4 May 2025 at midnight.

Visit [our website](#) for more information.

AREA 2024 Calendar



AREA Spring meetings in Istanbul on 22-23 May 2025

Kindly hosted by SOSIAD

Location: Hotel [CVK Park Bosphorus](#)

F-GAS REGULATION

REVISION OF THE F-GAS REGULATION

In October, AREA replied to the consultation on the F-gas Regulation Draft Implementing Act on new minimum certification requirements for air-conditioning systems in mobile equipment. In our position, we underline that the Regulation should not lead to an overtraining of the contractors. For example, the competencies required to work on light duty vehicles should not be the same as those needed for trains systems.

In addition, the Regulation should not create bridges between sectors, and particularly between car mechanics and the refrigeration fields. Competencies are very specific to each sector, and allowing attestations from one to apply to the other could have very harmful consequences.

With this in mind, we made the following suggestions for changes:

- Duration and refreshing training: A refreshment training every 7 years (similar to the F-gas certification) is essential due to rapid technological advancements. For instance, R290 (Propane) is expected to become common in cars within the next decade.
- Separate attestations: Attestations should be divided into 3 categories:
 - ✓ M1 for fluorinated gases and hydrocarbons -all vehicles,
 - ✓ M2 for fluorinated gases and hydrocarbons- only light duty vehicles and
 - ✓ N for CO2 (Currently, 700,000 electric vehicles in Europe already use CO2)
- Categories M requirements: Categories M1 and M2 should include more stringent safety and flammability requirements (similar to the F-gas certification) given the similarities between Implementing Act 2024/2215 and this Act. This act should be adopted by the end of the year.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the five States that submitted the PFAS restriction report under REACH framework (Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Norway) in mid-November published a [progress report](#) on the ongoing evaluation of the restriction dossier. The document takes stock of the topics still under consideration and those on which actors reached an agreement. At the same time, it identifies new sectors for classification and informs that ECHA is considering restriction options other than a ban for uses and sectors with demonstrated unavailability of viable alternatives. This assessment is currently underway for batteries, fuel cells, and semiconductors; however, it can potentially be applied to any sector and application in the scope of the restriction.

Next steps:

- 3-7 March 2025 (tentative): ECHA to discuss Applications of fluorinated gases in plenary meetings.

ECODESIGN AND ENERGY LABELLING REGULATION

AREA Sustainable Innovation Working Group has been proactive in the process on the [review](#) of Commission Regulation 2016/2281 on the ecodesign requirements for air heating products, cooling products, high temperature process chillers and fan coil unit ([ENER LOT 21](#)). On behalf of the European Commission, the Dutch research institute Van Holsteijn en Kemna BV (VHK) ran a stakeholders' consultation consisting in surveys addressed to both installers/repairers and manufacturers, and specific to the four product groups in scope. AREA members had the chance to have their say on important maintenance and repair-related issues such as the causes and frequency of failures, access to spare parts, as well as circular economy aspects as potential new ecodesign requirements.

Next steps:

- First half of February: publication of draft act
- 10 March 2025: Energy Labelling Consultation Forum meeting

ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE (EPBD)

Following the [entry into force](#) of the new Directive, the Commission has been working on implementing its provisions concerning secondary legislative and non-legislative acts. The first one to be published was the [Guidance](#) on phasing out financial incentives for stand-alone boilers powered by fossil fuels from 2025, in accordance with Article 17. As key aspects, the Commission proposed a definition on “hybrid systems” and encourages “hybrid heating systems with a considerable share of renewable energy”. Each Member State will have to specify what share of renewable energy within the hybrid system is “considerable”.

Another important development in the context of the EPBD is the ongoing support on the implementation of the [Smart Readiness Indicator](#) (SRI). During the last quarter of the year, the Commission and partner stakeholders [updated their digital tools](#) to improve the calculation methods for building technological readiness, in addition to releasing new training material for SRI assessors, building owners, and Member States (available for download at this [link](#)).

Lastly, on 8 October, the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and the EU Executive Agency CINEA held the [second joint event](#) on SRI, followed by the first [international SRI conference](#) held on 14-15 October in the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology ([all events](#)).

Next steps:

- Q2 2025: Commission to publish guidance on definition of fossil fuel boiler.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

Initiative	Legislative milestones	AREA Activities
<p>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)</p> <p>Status: Procedure completed</p>	<p>Commission proposal: 15 December 2021</p> <p>European Parliament Position: 15 February 2023</p> <p>EU Council General Approach 24 October 2022</p> <p>Provisional agreement from trilogues: 7 December 2023</p> <p>European Parliament's adoption in Plenary of trilogue agreement: 12 March 2024</p> <p>Council adoption: 12 April 2024</p> <p>Publication in the OJEU: 8 May 2024</p> <p>Next steps: Transposition by Member States: by 29 May 2026</p>	<p>AREA Position on the Commission's Roadmap: 08 April 2021</p> <p>AREA response to the Commission's Public Consultation: 18 June 2021</p> <p>AREA Statement on the EPBD revision proposal: 16 December 2021</p> <p>AREA Position Paper 30 March 2022</p> <p>Joint statement: 18 March 2024</p>
<p>Heat pumps – action plan to accelerate roll-out across the EU <i>(Commission Communication)</i></p> <p>Status: ON HOLD</p>	<p>Call for evidence: 28 April 2023</p> <p>Public Consultation: 07 June – 30 August 2023</p> <p>Next steps: Commission Adoption postponed until next Commission's mandate</p>	<p>Meeting with DG ENER: 02 June 2023</p> <p>Response to the public consultation: 30 August</p> <p>Joint letter: 1 February 2024</p>
<p>Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)</p> <p>Status: Procedure completed</p>	<p>Commission proposal: 16 March 2023</p> <p>Adoption in EP Plenary: 21 November 2023</p> <p>EU Council General Approach: 7 December 2023</p> <p>Provisional agreement from trilogues: 6 February 2024</p> <p>Vote in EP Plenary: 25 April 2024</p> <p>Council adoption: 27 May 2024</p> <p>Publication in OJEU: 28 June 2024</p>	<p>AREA reaction to the Net-Zero Industry Act proposal: 20 March 2023</p>

<p>F-gas Regulation</p> <p>Status: ACTIVE</p>	<p>Commission proposal: 5 April 2022</p> <p>European Parliament position: 30 March 2023</p> <p>EU Council General Approach: 5 April 2023</p> <p>Final agreement: 5 October 2023</p> <p>EP adoption in Plenary of trilogue agreement: 16 January 2024</p> <p>Council adoption of trilogue agreement: 29 January 2024</p> <p>Regulation published in the Official Journal of the EU: 7 February 2024</p> <p>Implementing Act on certification and training mandated by article 10 published: 6 September 2024</p> <p>Next steps: Consultation on several Implementing Acts ongoing</p>	<p>AREA reply to the public consultation: 24 December 2020</p> <p>Reaction to the Commission proposal: 6 April 2022</p> <p>AREA Position Paper on the F-gas Regulation: 24 August 2022</p> <p>AREA proposal for amendments: 18 November 2022</p> <p>AREA reaction to the EP position: 4 April 2023</p> <p>AREA reply to public consultation on IA on certification and training: 10 June 2024</p> <p><i>Additional statements and joint letters are available on our website or upon request.</i></p> <p>Numerous meetings with EU officials, MEPs, EP policy advisors, MSs representatives and stakeholders</p>
<p>ODS Regulation</p> <p>Status: Procedure completed</p>	<p>Commission proposal: 5 April 2022</p> <p>European Parliament position: 30 March 2023</p> <p>EU Council General Approach: 5 April 2023</p> <p>Provisional agreement from trilogues: 5 October 2023</p> <p>Publication in the EU <u>Official Journal</u>: 20 February 2024</p>	<p>NA</p>

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

AREA AT CHILLVENTA



This year, we were once again present at the Chillventa fair, the world's leading exhibition for refrigeration, AC, ventilation and heat pump technologies, but for the first time, AREA had its own booth at the fair.

AREA, together with other key partners, had several activities organised around this event:

As usual, AREA, ASERCOM and EPEE met for their joint cocktail reception, with a special extra guest this year: INWIC.

AREA also participated in the Forum about the future of training and certification and presented a comprehensive overview of the evolution of training and certification in the RAC sector. The focus of the event was the integration of alternative refrigerants into current programs, in light of the new rules introduced by the new F-Gas Regulation (EU) No. 573/2024.

The video of the intervention is now available online 



Find out more about these few days in AREA's short videos ([Video 1](#) / [Video 2](#))

AREA IN MOP36, THE INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL ISSUE LAUNCHED IN BANGKOK!

The tenth edition of the International Special Issue of UNEP-IIR-AREA-CSG publication was launched at MOP 36 in Bangkok, the meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

The magazine once again gathers the leading names of global HVAC sector, including articles on the future of our sector, its evolution and its impact on energy, the environment, and the fight against climate change.

The International Special Issue is distributed by the United Nations and IIR during international summits and meetings, to the Heads of State of the 180 countries that have signed the Montreal Protocol. It was also available at the COP29 (Azerbaijan) which was a great opportunity to raise awareness among global leaders and policymakers about the importance of innovative and sustainable solutions in the refrigeration field, contributing to the global fight against climate change.

The magazine can be consulted on international.centrogalileo.it.



U-3ARC GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN TUNIS



AREA participated in the 4th General Assembly of U-3ARC on 7-9 November in Tunisia. Under the theme “Refrigeration Unites Africa for its Development”, Madi Sakandé and Saïd El Harch were re-elected as President and Vice-President of the U-3ARC. Their continued leadership marks a significant moment for the advancement of the refrigeration and air conditioning sector across Africa.



THIS NEWSLETTER IS RESERVED FOR AREA MEMBERS. FOR ANY ENQUIRY, PLEASE CONTACT:

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