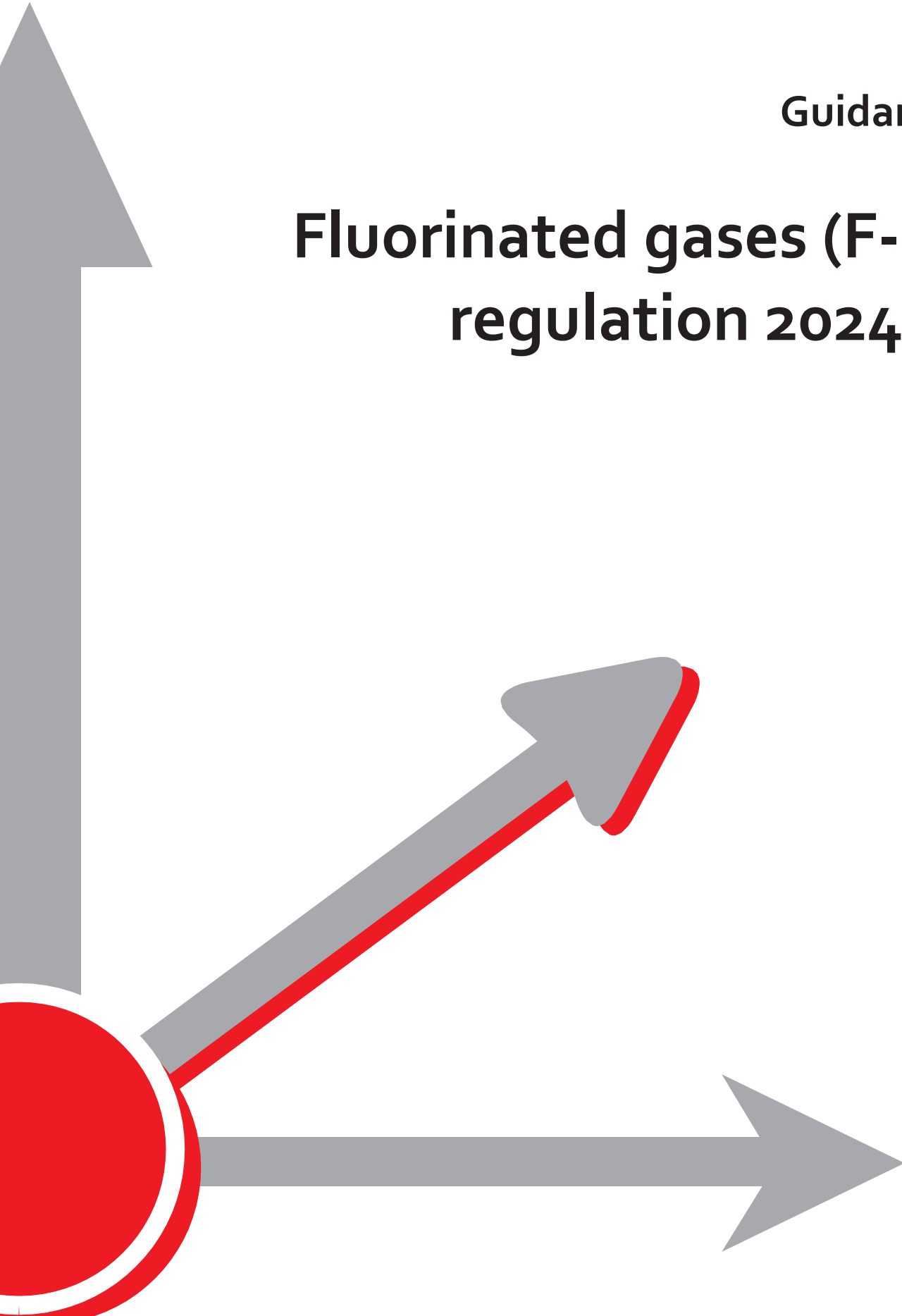


Guidance on

# Fluorinated gases (F-gas) regulation 2024/573



| Date       | Rev # | Who? | Change          |
|------------|-------|------|-----------------|
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## FOREWORD

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*Note: The English version of this document is the approved Euralarm reference document.*

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## 1 Introduction

EU F-gas Regulation [2024/573](#), that amends Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repeals Regulation (EU) 517/2014.



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REGULATION (EU) 2024/573 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 7 February 2024

on fluorinated greenhouse gases, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 517/2014

(Text with EEA relevance)

## 2 Scope

This Euralarm document provides guidance on the new EU F-gas Regulation [2024/573](#), that amends Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repeals Regulation (EU) 517/2014. The below includes the wording, or a summary thereof, followed by the implications for Euralarm members specifically pertaining to fire protection systems, and this document only focuses on the recent changes, not the full implications.

## 3 What Has Changed

### 3.1 Chapter I: General provisions

Chapter 1 contains the General provisions. The following relates to fire protection systems.

#### 3.1.1 Chapter I, Article 1: Subject matter

Article 1, Subject matter, which states: "This Regulation:

- (a) lays down rules on containment, use, recovery, recycling, reclamation and destruction of fluorinated greenhouse gases and on related ancillary measures, such as certification and training, which includes, the safe handling of fluorinated greenhouse gases and of alternative substances that are not fluorinated;
- (b) imposes conditions on the production, import, export, placing on the market, subsequent supply and use of fluorinated greenhouse gases, and of specific products and equipment containing fluorinated greenhouse gases or whose functioning relies upon those gases;
- (c) imposes conditions on specific uses of fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- (d) establishes quantitative limits for the placing on the market of hydrofluorocarbons;
- (e) establishes rules on reporting."

**Implications:** This has changed from 2014/517 by now including alternative substances in the subject matter; for fire protection this now includes FK-5-1-12.

#### 3.1.2 Chapter I, Article 2: Scope

The regulation Scope, article 2, states: "This Regulation applies to:

- (a) the fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annexes I, II and III, whether alone or as mixtures; and
- (b) products and equipment, and parts thereof, containing fluorinated greenhouse gases or whose functioning relies upon those gases."

**Implications:** None directly, but it clarifies what is covered, including the equipment.

### 3.2 Chapter II: Containment

#### 3.2.1 Chapter II, Article 5: Leak checks

Chapter 2 focuses on Containment. Following on from Article 4, Prevention of emissions, Article 5 addresses Leak

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checks and clearly defines that operators [*means the undertaking exercising actual power over the technical functioning of products, equipment or facilities covered by this Regulation, or the owner designated by a Member State as being responsible for the operator's obligations in specific cases*] and manufacturers of any equipment containing over 5 metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent must be leak checked. Paragraph 2 point (c) citing fire protection equipment.

Paragraph 6 points (a), (b), & (c) then sets out the leak checking periods:

- (a) for equipment that contains less than 50 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annex I at least every 12 months; or where a leakage detection system is installed in such equipment, at least every 24 months; in the previous regulation this was stated as 5 to 50 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.
- (b) for equipment that contains 50 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent or more, but less than 500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annex I at least every 6 months or, where a leakage detection system is installed in such equipment, at least every 12 months; this has not changed.
- (c) for equipment that contains 500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent or more of fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annex I at least every 3 months or, where a leakage detection system is installed in such equipment, at least every 6 months. This has not changed.

**Implications:** None directly, but it clearly states that if the equipment contains more than 5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent it has to be leak checked, the periods have not changed; Article 5 Paragraph 6 point (a) is no lower than the previous 5-50 tonnes. While it is good practice for all fire protection equipment to be leak checked, these particular requirements apply to Annex I and Annex II, and do not include FK-5-1-12, which is in Annex III.

### 3.2.2 Chapter II, Article 7: Record keeping

Article 7 paragraph 4 now requires that records are kept, for at least 5 years, of the equipment sold and for the certified installation companies it was sold to (i.e. installed by). This is linked to Article 11 (7) which required that F-Gases were only sold to certificated companies.

**Implications:** The qualifications and certification of installer companies needs to be verified before any equipment can be sold to them. Records must be kept for at least 5 years.

## 3.3 Chapter III: Restrictions and control of use

### 3.3.1 Chapter III, Article 11: Restrictions on placing on the market and sale

Article 11 (1) sets out the prohibitions on sale of F-Gases, noting the specific wording of Annex IV (11) (c) which states 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 for fire protection equipment that contain or rely on other fluorinated greenhouse gases listed in Annex I "except when required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation"

**Implication:** This states that new firefighting systems containing F-gases would be banned from 1/1/2025, noting that Annex I does include HFCs but does not include FK-5-1-12, therefore FK-5-1-12 is not affected by a ban, whilst HFC-227ea is. However, the "except when required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation" is unclear. It could be this is determined by national regulators, as there is no guidance in the regulation in respect to this exception. PFCs and HFC-23 have earlier prohibition dates and are banned without exception. To be clear, as FK-5-1-12 is not included in Annex I, it is not subject to the ban affecting Annex I substances.

Article 11 (1) now sets out that maintenance and repair is allowed for the gases covered by the placing on the market restrictions providing they do not lead to:

- an increase in the capacity of the product or equipment;
- an increase in the amount of fluorinated greenhouse gas contained in the product or equipment; or
- a change in the type of fluorinated greenhouse gas used that would lead to an increase of the global warming potential of the fluorinated greenhouse gas used;
- Refilling is only possible using reclaimed or recycled HFCs. Use of new and recovered (without processing) HFCs is not allowed. See Article 8 (refilling) Article 8.6 Recovery and Destruction and for the definitions Article 3 (3.11 Recovery, 3.12 Recycling and 3.13 Reclamation).

**Implications:** Provided the maintenance or repair does not lead to more F-Gas in the system, then existing systems can be maintained.

Article 11 (4) allows for refillable containers to be used where there is a binding process in place to return them.

**Implications:** We can refill a system provided we have a contract with the refilling operation.

### 3.4 Chapter IV: **Production schedule and reduction of the quantity of hydrofluorocarbons placed on the market**

#### 3.4.1 Chapter IV, Article 14: **Production of hydrofluorocarbons**

This new Article sets out the requirements for the production of HFC's and is in addition to the article on reduction in quantity of HFC's in the 2014 regulation.

Paragraph 1 of Article 14 states: "For the purposes of this Article, Article 15 and Annex V, the production of hydrofluorocarbons is the amount of hydrofluorocarbons produced minus the amount destroyed by technology approved by the Parties to the Protocol, and minus the amount entirely used as feedstock in the manufacture of other chemicals, but including hydrofluorocarbons generated as a by-product, unless not captured or unless that by-product is destroyed as part of or after the production process by the producer or handed over to another undertaking for destruction. No amount of reclaimed hydrofluorocarbons shall be considered in the calculation of the production of hydrofluorocarbons."

**Implications:** None, unless one is involved with the production of HFC's.

#### 3.4.2 Chapter IV, Article 20: **F-Gas portal**

The Commission shall set up and ensure the operation of an electronic system for the management of the quota system, licensing requirements of imports and exports, and reporting obligations on fluorinated greenhouse gases (the 'F-gas Portal').

**Implications:** This is new control point for holding the data related to quota, so only relevant where members hold a quota.

### 3.5 Chapter VI: **Reporting and collection of emission data**

#### 3.5.1 Chapter VI, Article 26: **Reporting by undertakings**

Article 26 (4) recording the amount of HFC's placed on the market, before reporting is required, has increased from 1 tonne CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to 10 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Article 26 (6) now adds a requirement to report when more than 1 tonne, or 100 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, is reclaimed for that calendar year.

**Implications:** This is just a change of the trigger for recording.

#### 3.6 Annex III: **Fluorinated greenhouse gases referred to in Article 2, point (a) (1) – fluorinated ethers, ketones and alcohols and other fluorinated compounds**

Annex III now includes FK-5-1-12. This means that, whilst not subject to the restrictions and leakage, reporting, certification and training requirements of those listed in Annexes I & II, FK-5-1-12 is recognized by the European Commission as related to F-Gas.

**Implications:** None, but worthy of note.

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