



## *Helpdesk*

### **EU NEWS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF “ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE”**

26/9/2008

#### **USE OF HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (HCFCs) IN COOLING INSTALLATIONS**

Companies producing or using cooling installations need to be informed about following deadlines that are coming nearer.

From 1 January 2010, the use of virgin hydrochlorofluorocarbons shall be prohibited in the maintenance and servicing of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment existing at that date; all hydrochlorofluorocarbons shall be prohibited from 1 January 2015. This ban is based on EU Directive 2037/2000/EC, which concerns the Montreal Protocol on eliminating substances that are depleting the ozone layer.

Comment: Newly produced HCFCs are such substances which were not yet on the market before.

HCFCs are – usually in a R22 composition – used in a wide range of cooling and airconditioning installations. Examples: commercial cooling; process cooling; cooling and freezing installations; cooling for foodstuffs and drinks; etc.

**Every firm which is using daily such installations will be confronted with this ban and should take sufficient measures before the deadline of 2010.**

In 2015 the ban will touch as well all recycled HCFCs.

According to information obtained from the study centre at Voka – Flemish Chambers of Commerce, some studies have shown that the replacement of the cooling product R222 is going too slow to meet the EU requirements.

Therefore, Chambers of Commerce are very suitable organisations for bringing this problem under the eyes of the enterprises in their regions.

Legal info:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2000R2037:20080101:EN:PDF>