

PROHIBITIONS ON NEW F-GAS-BASED PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT

The HFC phase-down is supported by bans, listed in Annex IV of the Regulation, which prohibit the placing on the market of new HFC-containing equipment by specified dates.⁵

In some cases, there is an eventual ban of all F-gases, including hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), due to concerns over their environmental impact. This will stimulate a transition to sustainable F-gas-free alternatives, including natural refrigerants. Other bans specify F-gases in Annex 1, which excludes HFOs and other unsaturated hydro(chloro)fluorocarbons such as HCFOs.

Additional bans to those outlined in this graphic have existed for Annex 1 F-gases in non-confined direct evaporation systems (since July 2007), aerosol generators for entertainment (since July 2009), windows (since July 2008), footwear (since July 2006) and tyres (since July 2007).

Figure 2 (right): Placing on the market prohibitions listed in Annex IV of the EU F-Gas Regulation

EXEMPTIONS

A general exemption applies to military equipment. The Commission may authorise an exemption for up to 4 years if alternatives are not feasible or would entail disproportionate costs. Exemptions listed in Annex IV are:

- * Except if required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation
- (*) Except if required to meet safety requirements. If safety requirements at the site of operation would not allow using alternatives to F-gases, the GWP limit is 750
- ** Except if required to meet national safety standards
- *** Except if required to meet safety requirements
- † Except equipment intended for application designed to cool products to below -50°C
- ‡ Except in the primary refrigerant circuit of cascade systems where fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of less than 1,500 may be used
- Δ Except if used for medical applications

