

ACRIB F GAS FACT SHEET 3



Company Certification

The ACRIB (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Board) F Gas Implementation group brings together all of the key trade associations and professional bodies representing the sector to help communicate obligations and provide guidance on interpretation of the F Gas Regulations. Working with the F-Gas Support service team ACRIB provides practical advice on the new F Gas Regulations which are now fully in place in GB legislation. A summary of some of the most frequently asked questions from the support help desk is shown below.

1. We have been told we need a company certificate, how do we apply?

From 4th July 2009 all companies (including sole-traders) undertaking refrigeration and air-conditioning work, be that as an in-house function or acting as contractors on behalf of other companies, should have obtained a company certificate if they employ personnel that carry out installation, maintenance or servicing activities on RAC systems containing HFCs. If your company has not yet obtained a certificate you should apply as soon as possible.

For an interim certification businesses will need to provide information about the business and a list of employed engineers holding the qualifications required by the legislation. These qualified engineers need to be in sufficient number to cover the expected volume of activities.

Personnel only working on equipment with less than 3 kg of HFC refrigerant must hold either C&G 2078/CITB J01 or evidence of an equivalent in-house qualification issued prior to 4 July 2008 or an interim personnel certificate based on previous professional experience. Anyone relying on this last option should have applied for and obtained an interim certificate by 3rd July 2009. There are two bodies that can issues interim personnel certificates these are:

- Domestic Appliance Service Association (DASA), contact details:
Website: www.dasa.org.uk, telephone: 0870 224 0343 or email: office@dasa.org.uk
- Whitegoods Trade Association (WTA), contact details.
Website: www.whitegoodstradeassociation.org, telephone: 0845 226 1272 or email: admin@whitegoodstradeassociation.org

Defra named three organisation as Company Certification bodies on June 11th 2009.

Refcom:

Website: www.refcom.org.uk, telephone: 01768 860409 or email: info@refcom.org.uk

Bureau Veritas:

Website: www.bureauveritas.co.uk/fgas , telephone: 0207 661 0726 or
email: fgas.mail@uk.bureauveritas.com

Quidos:

Website: <http://fgasregister.com>, telephone: 01225 318400 or email fgas@quidos.co.uk

2. We are a refrigeration company but we only project manage subcontractors. Do we need a company certificate?

If a company is subcontracting all the relevant RAC work (ie installation, maintenance and servicing of systems containing HFCs) to a third party then it is the third party company that requires certification, not the company contracting out the work. However, if the company does some of the RAC work or if the company actively supervises the RAC activities of the sub-contractor then they would need both qualified personnel and a company certificate. The view of F-Gas support is that if you do not employ qualified personnel you cannot apply for company certification.



3. Does a company subsidiary require a separate certificate?

Guidance from F-Gas Support suggests that a separate certificate will be required for each company that is a separate legal identity. So if all of your UK sites are under your main company registration then a single certificate will be required. If the business is grouped into a number of separate companies then each company will need its own company certificate.

4. Will company certification cover all our branch personnel?

If your trading divisions or branches are not separate legal entities then the company will only need to apply for a single company certificate. All the personnel involved in relevant activities at branches should be included in the main application or applications - whichever is appropriate. However if it is easier to manage company certification at a branch level then you may voluntarily apply for separate certificates for each branch. If this is done the application must clearly identify the appropriate branch.

5. Where can I get more information about company certification?

F-Gas support published a range of free detailed guidance notes at www.defra.gov.uk/fgas. The following will be most helpful on these topics:

- RAC 3 - Key Obligations including definitions of hermetic systems
- RAC 5 - Certification of personnel and companies