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CAPIEL Internet announcement F-Gas Regulation officially in Force – Impact on the switchgear sector

Following the recommendations of the ECCP, the European Parliament and the Council has published a Regulation on certain fluorinated gases : EC regulation 842/2006/EC available on the following link
(<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/FindByProcnum.do?lang=2&procnum=COD/2003/0189>)

The F-Gas Regulation was published in the EU Official Journal on 14th June 2006 and is entering into force 20 days after publication, i.e. the 4th July 2006.

For the HV sector using SF₆ filled HV electrical equipment, **there is neither a restriction nor any limitation to the use of SF₆ in electrical equipment above 1000V.**

For the HV sector, the provisions of the regulation applies to : recovery, recycling, reclamation and destruction of SF₆ gas, labelling of HV switchgear and equipment containing SF₆, reporting of SF₆ emissions by Member states and also training and certification of personnel engaged in SF₆ gas recovery operations.

The key obligations that applies to the HV sector are addressed in articles 4 *recovery*, 5 *training and certification* and 7 *labelling* . Articles 4 and 7 become operational one year after publication, i.e. on 4th July 2007, while article 5 will apply later (to be timely announced).

The regulation also requires reporting of certain information from producers, importers and exporters of SF₆ gas (with the exception of SF₆ gas contained in HV electrical equipment) in case of producing, importing or exporting quantities exceeding 1 tonne per annum (out of / into the European Union).

The regulation covers all fluorinated gases (HFCs, PFCs and SF₆) and addresses : *containment, use, recovery and destruction* of fluorinated greenhouse gases ; *labelling and disposal* of products and equipment containing those gases ; *reporting* of information on those gases ; *control of use* referred to in article 8 and *placing on the market, prohibition of products and equipment* is referred to in Article 9 and Annex II - and *training and certification of personnel* and companies involved in activities of Articles 3 *containment* and 4 *recovery*.

This regulation has been introduced by the European Union to meet the goals of Greenhouse gas emission reductions according to the Kyoto commitment. The regulation will have an impact on a wide range of F gas applications, such as commercial refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps as well as fire protection systems.

EU Commission has invited the sectors concerned to a stakeholders meeting in Brussels on 9th October 2006.

Details about the interpretation and implementation guidance of the F Gas regulation for the switchgear sector will be available on Capiel's web site soon.

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