

Protect your business:

A large flock of sheep is shown, with a single wolf in the center. The wolf has a grey and tan coat and is looking directly at the camera with a slight, menacing smile. The sheep around it are white and fluffy, creating a stark contrast with the wolf's appearance.

Buy refrigerants
from safe sources!

WHY SHOULD YOU READ THIS LEAFLET?



Would you buy from unsafe sources?

Would you take any risk when you buy your medicine?

Would you buy it on the black market just to save some money?

From dealers you do not know?

From unverified websites?

In blister packs or packages without any clear indication of the source and manufacturer?

NO!

The risk for your health would be far too high.

With the EU F-Gas Regulation and HFC phase down, the pressure on HFCs, particularly when they have a high GWP, has considerably increased. Refrigerants have become precious goods. They are essential for the safe and reliable operation of your business – just as medicine can be essential for your life. Therefore, you cannot afford to take any risk.

This leaflet gives a brief overview on the key criteria to distinguish safe sources from illegal ones and is designed to help you recognize illegal refrigerants.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Risks of buying illegal refrigerant are high and range from hefty fines to risks for health and safety for installers and users. More specifically, risks are related to:

→ **Financial impact:**

High fines, or even criminal prosecution.

→ **Operational impact:**

Badly performing equipment if refrigerants do not comply with specifications (impurities, contamination with oil and other substances, etc.) leading to loss of capacity, reduced energy efficiency, higher operational cost, equipment failures

→ **Business impact:**

Deterioration of relationship with customers or even loss of customers due to problems with the equipment and risk of closing businesses. Reputational damage.

4 SIMPLE STEPS TO ENSURE YOUR REFRIGERANTS ARE SAFE:

→ Health and safety impact:

Refrigerants fall under “dangerous substances” and need to be handled with care, even more so with the increased use of flammable and high-pressure gases. Refrigerants that do not comply with the gas producers’ specifications or with the content indicated on the cylinders can pose a serious risk for the health and safety of installers and users.

→ Environmental impact:

Illegal trade undermines the F-Gas Regulation’s aim to phase down HFCs. Risks such as refrigerant leakage into the atmosphere increase even further with the use of inadequate cylinders, or illegal disposable cylinders which are not allowed to be produced/used in the EU according to regulations.

Example:



A Chinese company was convicted in 2012 for selling counterfeit refrigerants using another company’s logo. The person held responsible in the company was sentenced to three years imprisonment, three years of probation, a fine of €3,000,

and his company was additionally fined £20,000 for selling counterfeit refrigerants using another company’s logo.

- 1 Purchase your refrigerant from a reputable distributor
- 2 Don’t buy refrigerants in disposable cylinders which are banned in the EU
- 3 Avoid purchases from internet platforms
- 4 If the price by your supplier is unusually low compared to your expected offer, be prepared to check for the other indicators below.

HOW TO IDENTIFY ILLEGAL REFRIGERANTS?

The following are helpful indicators to identify illegal refrigerants. They will be explained more in detail in the following chapters of this leaflet.

→ REFRIGERANT CYLINDERS

→ DOCUMENTATION SUCH AS SAFETY DATA SHEET

→ LABELLING

Please note that while these general rules apply, compliance for your specific situation needs to be verified with your local authorities and regulations



REFRIGERANT CYLINDERS

1. Watch out for disposables: they are banned for sale in Europe!



- Disposable cylinders have been banned in Europe since 2007. Cylinders MUST be able to be returned to the supplier.
- They do not comply with ADR Transport Regulations for dangerous goods.
- They can contain chemical substances which are not registered under the EU REACH regulation.

2. Refillable cylinders need to fulfill certain criteria

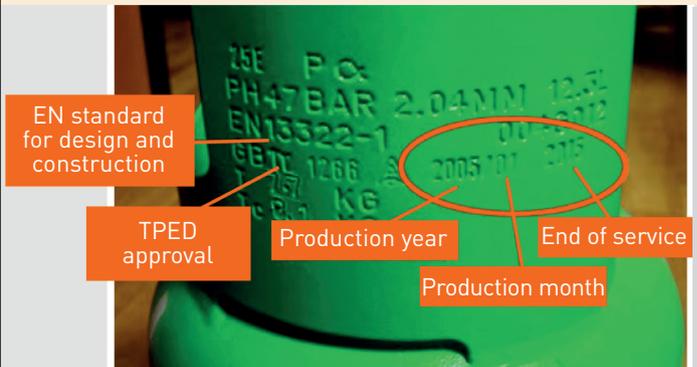


Refrigerant cylinders need to comply with the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive (TPED)

- They need to be pressure-tested regularly and stamped accordingly – including the date of the next test
- The valves need to be stamped with the homologation number

Cylinders need to bear the following stamps and information

- Labelled with the Pi (π) stamp
- EN 13322-1: compliance with standard of design and construction
- TPED approval
- Year and month of production
- Cylinders need to be maintained/inspected after 10 years. The year of end of service must be marked on the cylinder



SOURCE:
GeneralGas, 2019, Esempi di bombole non conformi per il mercato europeo
www.generalgas.it



DOCUMENTATION – SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

Any refrigerant delivery needs to be accompanied by the relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) issued by the gas producer/or supplier. Besides many other criteria, the SDS needs to contain the following mandatory information:

- Issued by the gas producer in your national language
- Clear indication of CAS number
- Clear indication of CE registration
- Clear indication of the producer including address and emergency number

Scheda Dati di Sicurezza
in accordo con il Regolamento (UE) n. 453/ 2010

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Pag. 1 di 8

Sez. 1 Identificazione della Sostanza o della Miscela e della Società/Impresa

1.1 Identificatore del prodotto

Prodotto : 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroetano
Tipo di prodotto : Sostanza
Osservazioni : Scheda di dati di sicurezza ai sensi del regolamento 1907/2006/CE, Articolo 31.
Nome chimico : norfluano
N°CAS : 811-97-2
N° di Registrazione : 01-2119459374-33

1.2 Usi pertinenti identificati della sostanza o miscela e usi sconsigliati

Utilizzazione della sostanza/ della miscela : Refrigerante, Propellente, Fluido di trasferimento di calore
Usi sconsigliati : nessuno(a)

1.3 Identificazione della Società / dell'Impresa

Società : General Gas
N° Telefonico di Chiamata Urgente :
E-Mail :

Sez. 2 Identificazione dei Pericoli

2.1 Classificazione della sostanza o della Miscela
Regolamento (CE) N° 1272/2008
Gas sotto pressione Gas liquefatto H280, Contiene gas sotto pressione; può esplodere se riscaldato.

2.2 Elementi dell'etichetta
Regolamento (CE) N° 1272/2008
Pittogrammi di pericolo :

Avvertenza : Attenzione
Indicazioni di pericolo : H 280, Contiene gas sotto pressione; può esplodere se riscaldato.
Consigli di prudenza : P 280, Indossare guanti/protettore gli occhi/viso.
P 284, Quando la ventilazione del locale è insufficiente indossare un apparecchio di protezione respiratoria.
P 410 + P 403, Proteggere dai raggi solari. Conservare in luogo ben ventilato.

2.3 Altri pericoli : Attenzione! Contiene sotto pressione.



LABELLING

All refrigerant cylinders need to be clearly labelled:

- Clear indication of the producer
- Safety indication in your national language
- ADR Transport Symbol and UN number



SOURCE:
GeneralGas, 2019, Esempi di bombole non conformi per il mercato europeo
www.generalgas.it

ARE YOU AWARE OF ILLEGAL OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES?

EFCTC, the European trade association of fluorocarbon producers, has launched a web-based Action Line that will permit any individual to report alleged suspect HFC offerings confidentially to a trusted and independent contractor.

If you are aware of any suspect activity, you can anonymously report the case on the EFCTC Action Line through:

 <https://efctc.integrityline.org>

Any information submitted is treated as confidential and is handled by EQS, a trusted and independent contractor. Suspicious activity will be shared with enforcement agencies at EU or Member State level (in order to disrupt the activity), and not with EFCTC members.



AREA is the European association of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors. Established in 1989, AREA voices the interests of 25 national associations from 22 countries representing 13,000 companies employing 110,000 people and with an annual turnover approaching € 23 billion.

www.area-eur.be



ASERCOM, the Association of European Component Manufacturers is the platform for dealing with scientific and technical topics and their challenges, promoting standards for performance rating, methods of testing and product safety, focusing on improved environmental protection, serving the refrigeration and air conditioning industry and its customers.

www.asercom.org



Representing the European Fluorocarbons Manufacturers.

www.fluorocarbons.org



The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the interests of the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 48 member companies, national and international associations from Europe, the USA and Asia, employing more than 200,000 people in Europe and realising a turnover of over 30 billion Euro.

www.epeeglobal.org

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