

3 Questions to...

Hermann Renz, member of the Technical Committee of eurammon

## Challenges of the new F-Gas Regulation

**The revised F-Gas Regulation with its direct and indirect prohibitions is a major challenge for the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. The tasks that have to be mastered and the chances these then offer in turn are explained by eurammon expert Hermann Renz, member of the Technical Committee of eurammon and Technical Programs Manager at Bitzer Kühlmaschinenbau GmbH.**

1. ***The revision of the F-Gases Regulation prescribes which refrigerants will be allowed or prohibited in future. What does this mean in concrete terms for manufacturers and operators, and where do you see the challenges?***

**Hermann Renz:** The roadmap features a phase-down through to 2030. At first glance this seems to be a long time, but the branch is already being forced to set the points in a sustainable direction in the long term. It is also foreseeable that new challenges will emerge in the future. The EU has meanwhile announced a further reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050, which will result in an additional need to act.

2. ***Does it make sense to convert existing equipment or is it better to invest in a new system that will meet future requirements?***

**Hermann Renz:** Even if existing systems could continue operations through to 2030 when operated with recycled refrigerants, it often makes commercial sense for well maintained systems that are operating efficiently to be converted to refrigerants with a low GWP. However, it has to be ensured that there are no disadvantages in terms of energy efficiency due to the change-over. As far as older equipment is concerned, new investment is recommended here as this is often far more profitable to operate thanks to more developed technologies.

### 3. *How does the revised F-Gas Regulation impact on the future use of natural refrigerants?*

**Hermann Renz:** In principle the phase-down will make F-gases extremely scarce, which will be tantamount to an indirect ban in many areas, thus boosting refrigerants with low GWP. But the sheer diversity of refrigeration and air-conditioning systems means that it is not possible to define any one universal solution, even for sub-sectors. One thing is relatively certain, and that is that there will be a clear increase in the number of applications with natural refrigerants and alternative “low GWP” system solutions. However, successful implementation will need sound foundations. This includes among others corresponding initial and further training of the professionals involved – which in turn needs experienced trainers, which takes time, as is well known.

#### **About eurammon**

eurammon is a joint European initiative of companies, institutions and individuals who advocate an increased use of natural refrigerants. As a knowledge pool for the use of natural refrigerants in refrigeration engineering, the initiative sees as its mandate the creation of a platform for information sharing and the promotion of public awareness and acceptance of natural refrigerants. The objective is to promote the use of natural refrigerants in the interest of a healthy environment, and thereby encourage a sustainable approach in refrigeration engineering. eurammon provides comprehensive information about all aspects of natural refrigerants to experts, politicians and the public at large. It serves as a qualified contact for anyone interested in the subject. Users and designers of refrigeration projects can turn to eurammon for specific project experience and extensive information, as well as for advice on all matters of planning, licensing and operating refrigeration plants. The initiative was set up in 1996 and is open to European companies and institutions with a vested interest in natural refrigerants, as well as to individuals e.g. scientists and researchers.

Internet URL: [www.eurammon.com](http://www.eurammon.com)

#### **Contacts**

##### **eurammon contact**

eurammon  
Dr. Karin Jahn  
Lyoner Strasse 18  
D-60528 Frankfurt  
Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)69 6603-1277  
Fax: +49 (0)69 6603-2276  
E-mail: [karin.jahn@eurammon.com](mailto:karin.jahn@eurammon.com)

##### **Press contact**

FAKTOR 3 AG  
Katarina Lisci  
Kattunbleiche 35  
D-22041 Hamburg  
Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)40 679446-6132  
Fax: +49 (0)40 679446-11  
E-mail: [eurammon@faktor3.de](mailto:eurammon@faktor3.de)