



CoolNews

*Monthly periodical for the European contractors society working in the Refrigeration,
Air-Conditioning and Heat pump sector*

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AREA AFFAIRS

AREA autumn General Assembly meeting

The next AREA General Assembly meeting will take place on 13-14 November 2015 in Brussels. The event will take place at the [Silken Berlaymont Hotel](#). The Secretariat has reserved rooms for the nights of 12 and 13 November. Hotel rooms must be booked by 12th October to guarantee rate and availability. The invitation, registration forms and agendas for the meetings will follow in due course.

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

LEGISLATION

Fgas Consultation Forum & implementing acts



AREA President Per Jonasson took part in the first Fgas Consultation Forum that took place on 10th September 2015 in Brussels. AREA had prepared the meeting, notably by submitting written comments to 3 working papers issued a couple of weeks before.

On the topic of standards and codes, most discussions focussed on barriers to flammable refrigerants. On the topic of training, AREA stressed again the need for mandatory certification to ensure competence, whilst EPEE reaffirmed their commitment to promoting EN 13313 both in Europe (vocational schools) and at ISO level. The topic of green public procurement was barely touched upon. All the presentations given at the meeting are available at http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/articles/0106_en.htm

Meanwhile, work on the revision of several implementing acts is ongoing. This concerns 4 texts: Regulations 303/2008 (certification stationary equipment) – 305/2008 (Certification Switchgear) – 308/2008 (Training Notification) as well as 1494/2007 on Labelling. Drafts were circulated for comments over the summer and were discussed with Member States on 29th September. AREA can be particularly satisfied with the latest draft for 303/2008, as all our comments were taken into account and reflected. Adoption is expected in the coming weeks.

International competence scheme for installers

On 23rd July 2015, AREA, represented by Marco Buoni, took part in a meeting on the the Global Refrigerant Management Initiative (GRMI). The meeting was organized by AHRI during the [OEWG](#)

[meeting](#). Mr. Buoni presented AREA work which was appreciated. He indicated that the priority should be on mapping what exists worldwide and taking best practices. Such a work is being undertaken. The next step will be a review meeting in China during the ICAHRMA meeting around 24th October. AREA will try to take part remotely.



On the same day, UNEP and AHRI launched that Refrigerant Driving License in an effort to “*promote the sound deployment of future refrigerants and to support efforts of developing countries in adopting low-GWP alternative refrigerants safely and efficiently. The new joint initiative titled “Refrigerants Driving License (RDL)” aims at introducing industry globally recognised qualification programme for the sound management of refrigerants acceptable by the HVAC&R Supply-Chain network*”.

AREA made clear that even if driven by AHRI, it should not be a US project but should have a global umbrella and should be globally accepted to be successful.

European skills, competences, qualifications and occupations

AREA has been contacted by ESCO, which is a multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications, and Occupations under the responsibility of the European Commission’s DG Employment. Whereas this is currently a national competence, it will soon become harmonized at European level. Concretely, this means that occupations will be commonly defined and described throughout the EU, thereby facilitating movement of workers.

In preparation for this harmonization process, ESCO will launch a consultation on 14th October. Interested members are invited to take part and/or circulate the information to their network. Ideally, human resources departments from companies should take part in order to ensure that the occupations they provide (job descriptions) are accurately reflected in the upcoming harmonized EU scheme.

European Heating and Cooling Strategy

In July, the European Commission issued a Heating & Cooling Strategy Roadmap with the aim of providing information on the Heating & Cooling Strategy Communication that the Commission will present soon.

The Roadmap indicated that the Communication will not propose any new policies but identify areas for further work, which could be developed in the context of upcoming reviews of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Renewables Directive. Consequently, no impact assessment will be carried out.

AREA put together some [comments](#) highlighting the key role of contractors and their complete neutrality towards technology. In addition to technologies, AREA mentioned other aspects to be duly considered in the upcoming strategy, notably the role of refrigerant and the necessity to maintain contractors' skills and knowledge.

On 9th September, AREA took part in a consultation meeting organised by the European Commission. There, industry stressed the necessity of respecting the technology neutrality principle. Indeed, stakeholders called for an open and neutral approach towards technologies, but also energy sources. The primary objectives target should be reducing the energy consumption and improving energy efficiency. Then, the strategy should also address other issues, notably the reuse and recycling of energy. AREA highlighted the key role of installers at both installation and maintenance levels and called for regulatory coherence, notably on the issue of training & competence (e.g. Fgas Regulation).

The Strategy is now expected early 2016.

Ecodesign: implementing measures on refrigerating equipment

Regulations [2015/1095](#) and [2015/1094](#) were published in the EU Official Journal on 8 July 2015. These new pieces of legislation set [ecodesign](#) (minimum energy efficiency & information) and [energy labelling](#) requirements for professional refrigerating equipment. The first requirements will enter into force on 1 July 2016.

As regards the scope, the Ecodesign measure regulates professional refrigerated storage cabinets and blast cabinets, condensing units as well as process chillers. The labelling measure focuses only on electric mains-operated professional refrigerated storage cabinets, including for foodstuffs and animal feed.

Review of the Energy labelling Directive

On 15 July 2015, the European Commission issued its [proposal](#) to review the Energy Labelling Directive. The core proposal is to go back to the single A-G energy labelling scale and, consequently, to introduce a process for rescaling the existing labels. In addition, the Commission suggests introducing a mandatory digital database for new products placed on the EU market (manufacturers' responsibility) and a working plan to be combined with the Ecodesign working plan.

It should be noted that the Commission's proposal amends the definition of 'energy-related products'. As a main result, it extends the energy label scope to '*any system or service with an impact on energy consumption during the use phase*', in addition to equipment. This change aims to clarify the Energy

label scope. Indeed, some implementing measures already require dealers and installers to label packages / systems in which the individual products are sold, such as the regulation on space heaters. As regards the extension to 'services', further clarifications are necessary and exact modalities for systems and services will be developed in the specific delegated acts.

Installers are not directly impacted by the proposed changes in the Energy labelling framework. However, AREA raised concerns on the extension of this energy label scheme to systems and contributed to the [Orgalime position paper](#) and the EPEE paper on this matter.

Review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

The European Commission has published its [roadmap](#) on the evaluation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. It explains the purpose and content of the review as well as how the original EPBD objectives were supposed to be achieved.

Building renovation and public authorities

On 9 July, two requirements aiming to stimulate energy efficiency in public buildings became stricter. Indeed, as foreseen in the original Directives, the threshold used in Article 5 of the EED and Article 12 of the EPBD have been lowered from 500m² to 250m². Therefore, an energy performance certificate must be issued for buildings where a floor area over 250m² is occupied by public authorities and frequently visited by the public. In addition, 3% of central government buildings (above 250m²) must be renovated each year, to meet the minimum energy performance requirements set by the EPBD (Article 4).

Energy efficiency

According to the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), EU Member States must set a national indicative energy efficiency target and report on progress achieved on an annual basis. The European Commission published a table showing the evolution of national energy efficiency targets, both in primary and final energy consumption (see [here](#)). It shows that the 20% target will be slightly missed.

In addition, by April 2014, they must also have issued National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs - already required under the Energy Services Directive). They include estimated energy consumption, planned energy efficiency measures and the improvements individual EU countries expect to achieve. EU countries must report on the progress achieved towards their national energy efficiency targets on an annual basis. The European Commission has also published [2015 annual EED progress reports](#).

BRIEF NEWS

REAL Alternatives project finishes

The REAL Alternatives project came to an end on 30th September 2015. AREA attended the final project meeting on 14-15 September in Warsaw. This gave an opportunity to see some delegates from AREA's

Polish Member Association KFCh NRF. AREA Secretary General Olivier Janin also gave a speech at a conference organised by PROZON to explain why AREA decided to take part.

The project is a success in that it achieved what it was meant for: an e-learning schemes for contractors on low GWP refrigerants. AREA has provisionally agreed to remain involved on a non-financial basis by staying involved in the consortium without financial commitment.

On 10th September, AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni [presented the project](#) at the Fgas Consultation Forum meeting.

More information: www.realalternatives.eu



Industry mentoring scheme in the UK

A new scheme is being set up in the UK with the intention of giving a facility for young engineers and technicians to have a mentor, or someone to ask advice from, on various technical or commercial matters. Graeme Fox is involved. The matter will be discussed at the next AREA GA meeting. In the meanwhile, further information can be obtained at

<http://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/pioneering-mentoring-scheme-announced/>

News from AREA fellow trade organisations

EPEE to hold an industry roundtable

On 14th October, EPEE will hold an industry roundtable on the theme “From HFCs, Heating & Cooling, to Energy Labelling: Europe’s Energy Challenges for 2016 and beyond”. AREA will take part.

EFCTC (fluorocarbon producers)

Newsletter issue 131 of October 2015 has been [published](#).

PUBLICATIONS

AREA Fgas Guide now available in Dutch

AREA Dutch member association NVKL has translated the AREA Fgas Guide into Dutch. The document is available for download from AREA website (section [professional guidance](#)).

30 factsheets about the new Fgas Regulation

Gluckman Consulting and Jacobs have prepared comprehensive guidance related to the new EU F-Gas regulation (517/2014). This guidance has been prepared on behalf of Defra (the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

See <http://www.gluckmanconsulting.com/f-gas-information-sheets/>

EVENTS

Marco Buoni presents REAL Alternatives at the Fgas Consultation Forum meeting

AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni presented the REAL Alternatives project at the first meeting of the Fgas Consultation Forum set up by Regulation 517/2014. The project was presented during discussions on training on low GWP refrigerants and in the presence of many Member States representatives and stakeholders from the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump industry. See Mr. Buoni's presentation on [REAL Alternatives](#)



5th Symposium on Alternative Refrigerants for High Ambient Countries, 31 October 2015, Dubai

AREA has been invited to 3 events organised by UNEP around the 5th Symposium on Alternative Refrigerants for High Ambient Countries Mr. Buoni will attend and notably present Real Alternative for High Ambient Temperature and AREA guidelines.

European Heat Pump Summit, 20-21 October, Nuremberg

More info: <https://www.hp-summit.de/en/default.ashx>

Annual congress of the Serbian HVAC&R Society, 2-4 December 2015, Belgrade

More info <http://kongres.kgh-kongres.rs/index.php?lang=en>

This newsletter is reserved to AREA members

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