



# Changes to products that can be placed on the market in Great Britain from 2023: Foams that contain HFCs with a GWP of 150 or more, except when required to meet national safety standards

November 2022

## The 2023 ban

**Under UK legislation, bans on what can be placed on the market in GB are coming into force from 1 January 2023 and will apply to the following:**

Foams that contain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with a global warming potential (GWP) of 150 or more except when required to meet national safety standards.

There is already a prohibition on extruded polystyrene (XPS) foams that contain HFCs with a GWP of 150 or more except when required to meet national safety standards. These have been prohibited since 1 January 2020.

## Reduction in the use of HFCs

HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

The GB F-gas Regulation will phase down the use of HFCs by 79% by 2030. This will make refrigerants with a higher GWP harder to obtain and more expensive.

**Undertakings that do not comply with the 2023 ban are breaking the law and are liable for enforcement action.**

The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/310/contents/made>), as amended by the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/98/made>), enable regulators in England and Scotland to issue civil penalties up to £200,000 to undertakings breaching the requirements of the Regulations.

Enforcement notices and possible fines can also be applied by enforcing authorities in Wales and Northern Ireland for breaches of F-gas provisions.

## What you will need to do

If you're unsure if this ban applies to you, check which category your product falls into and which HFC it uses with your manufacturer and/or supplier.

Where you consider your product is to be used to meet national safety standards, you should inform the Environment Agency that you intend to place the product on the market after 1 January 2023 and provide evidence to [f-gassupport@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:f-gassupport@environment-agency.gov.uk) demonstrating the intended application of the product. For Northern Ireland, please see below.

Provide this guidance document to end users of foams that contain HFCs if you are a supplier.

## Further guidance

For more information about the other requirements of the F-gas Regulation, such as equipment operators' responsibility to ensure that HFC refrigerants are properly managed, recovered or destroyed by qualified persons / F-gas certified companies at the end of their service life, read the following guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fluorinated-gas-f-gas-guidance-for-users-producers-and-traders>

Consult your product manufacturer and/or supplier for information on climate friendly alternatives.

Consult your trade association for further advice and guidance.

The main enforcing authorities in GB are the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Welsh local authorities.

## Northern Ireland

For further information specific to Northern Ireland, please see the web-page [https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/2023\\_Fgas\\_foams\\_ban](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/2023_Fgas_foams_ban) or contact DAERA(NI) at: [FgasODSNI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FgasODSNI@daera-ni.gov.uk), or via the web-page <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/contacts/cipp>