



**STOP SMUGGLING.
START TRACING.**



German Chemical Act comes into force to further curb illegal trade in HFCs

- German law increases transparency throughout the hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) supply chain.
- The law goes one step further than the current EU F-gas regulation by demanding everyone selling HFCs provides the appropriate documentation.
- EFCTC invites the value chain to report suspicious activity to an anonymous Action Line and to join a pledge dedicated to eradicating the HFC black market.

Brussels, 2 August 2021: A new amendment to the German Chemical Act came into force on 1 August and will increase transparency throughout the hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) supply chain. The law requires all those selling HFCs in Germany to provide documentation which proves that gases are legally traded within the European Union's quota system, introduced by the 2014 EU F-gas regulation.

EFCTC spokesperson Felix Flohr said: "We are confident that these new measures in Germany will help fight the HFC black market and we will follow developments closely as the amendment comes into force. The German Chemical Act could set an example to other Member States on how to introduce effective new legislation which prevents illegal HFC trading."

A more advanced law

The gases, which are commonly used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, are subject to a phase down through a quota system to reduce their consumption, on a GWP basis, by 79% by 2030. Uneven enforcement by EU Member States, coupled with a lack of knowledge and understanding of HFC smuggling, created an opportunity for criminals to bypass the quota system and import HFCs into the EU illegally.

Under the current EU F-gas regulation (517/2014), only gas producers and importers are required to prove that the products they are supplying are legally traded. The German law goes a step further and means that everyone selling HFCs must provide the appropriate documentation which allows authorities and buyers to determine whether they traded within the quota.

Active reporting detects criminals

Policy changes to improve the national enforcement of the F-gas regulation are vital to fight against the illegal trade in HFCs. However, EFCTC believes that everyone throughout the value chain has a role to play. As part of the solution, EFCTC runs an anonymous Action Line which is available in 14 languages. Anyone can report suspicious activity to the Action Line which examines intelligence and passes on information to enforcement authorities. EFCTC also invites all actors engaged in the HFC value chain to join a dedicated pledge which encourages joint action to eradicate the HFC black market.

The EFCTC Action Line for anonymous reporting of illegal F-gas products and illegal F-gas trade is available at: <https://efctc.integrityline.org/index.php>

To join the fight and #SayNoToIllegalHFCs, please visit www.stopillegalcooling.eu/pledge

For previous communications on the German Chemical Act see [here](#).

EFCTC

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About EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) – EU Transparency Register n° 64879142323-90 – and represents the companies Arkema, Chemours, Daikin Chemical, Honeywell and Koura. Its main objectives are to provide up to date information about applications, safety, health and environmental effects for HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins), and the relevant European and international legislation.

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