



**STOP SMUGGLING.
START TRACING.**



eBay taking steps against the illegal trade of HFCs

Brussels, 19 April 2021 – Recognising the important role for online platforms in halting the illegal market for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), eBay has strengthened its measures to further enforce the evolution of the EU regulations regarding the sale of refrigerants.

While eBay has already had block filters in place, they have now been further improved and enhanced based on the evolution of the EU rules, making it even more difficult for these goods to make it onto eBay in the first place. These updated measures targeting illegal HFCs remain deployed across all European eBay platforms.

One of the undeniable effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it has accelerated the growth and reliance on e-commerce, making online marketplaces more of a target for those attempting to trade in illicit goods.

The illegal trade in HFCs has been growing ever since the 2015 F-gas regulation imposed a quota on HFCs entering the EU legally. In 2019, an estimated 31 million CO₂eqT in HFC refrigerants entered the EU market—according to a data analysis by Oxera and EFCTC. The research shows that in 2018 and 2019, up to 73 million CO₂eqT could have been smuggled into the EU. This is equivalent to the yearly emissions of more than 55 million cars – one fifth of all the cars on EU roads. Other EFCTC research in collaboration with global investigations firm Kroll has uncovered that a large part of the trade happens on online European marketplaces. The opportunities provided by a shift towards e-commerce sales and economic hardship are likely to be further exploited by criminal actors behind the HFC black market.

Delphine Dauba-Pantanacce, Director and Global Regulatory Lead at eBay said, “eBay is committed to providing a secure and fair marketplace for our community of buyers and sellers around the world. For many years we have worked with regulatory authorities and experts in the refrigerants space, adjusting our measures in line with the constant evolution of EU rules. We have now taken further steps to prevent the illegal sale of HFCs on our marketplace and continue to welcome collaboration with Governments and bodies such as EFCTC in this area.”

David Smith, Business Director at Koura Global said, “EFCTC welcomes eBay’s commitment and support in this effort. The actions that eBay has taken from updating its measures to detect illegally traded HFCs and investing in staff training for product detection sets an example for what online companies should do to ensure illegal trade in HFCs will not happen on their platform. But the problem of illegally sold HFCs goes beyond eBay’s marketplace. We encourage all members of the value chain to #SayNoToIllegalHFCs, help protect the legal supply and educate consumers about the risks posed by illicit goods.”

EFCTC

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To show your support in eradicating the black market for HFCs:

- On eBay, flag items that violate eBay's policy directly for review through the Report Item link in each listing
- Outside of the eBay platform, flag suspicious items through EFCTC's confidential [Action Line](#)
- [Pledge](#) your support and share the message on social media to educate your contacts about the black market using #SayNoToIllegalHFCs.
- Learn more about the black market at stopillegalcooling.eu

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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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