

BLACK MARKET FOR HFCS

THE COLD, HARD TRUTH BEHIND EUROPE'S REFRIGERANTS



THERE IS A GROWING BLACK MARKET FOR ILLEGALLY-IMPORTED HFC (HYDROFLUOROCARBON) GASES IN THE EU, WHICH HAMPERS EUROPE'S CLIMATE GOALS

HFC is commonly used in:



Airconditioning

in cars, homes, hotels, hospitals, data centers and other buildings

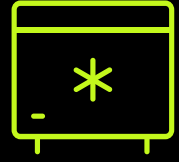


Fire extinguishers, sprays and insulation



Heat pumps

used for space, water and manufacturing process heating



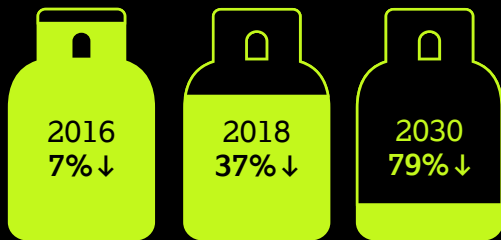
Refrigeration

in supermarkets and industry

THE EU F-GAS REGULATION

To help combat climate change and stimulate alternative solutions, the 2014 EU F-gas Regulation bound industry to reduce emissions through a quota system.

The EU and legitimate producers are committed to this phase-down. However, illegitimate products are now flooding the EU market, funding organised crime.



ILLEGAL HFCS ARE SMUGGLED ACROSS EU BORDERS

Customs officers regularly confiscate illegal HFCs, but most go unnoticed. Issues with the system include:



Complex shipping routes and reseller markets, which render the activity hard to track



Low fines, which do not deter criminals

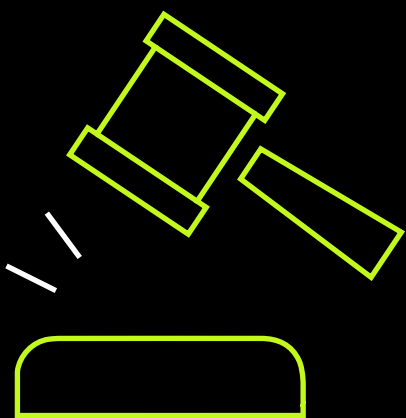


Non-quota compliant HFC canisters are **not easily identifiable targets** for customs officials, unlike drugs, arms and animals



Retroactive reporting of legitimate products under quota prevents customs from having real-time info on suppliers

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND TAKE ACTION NOW



BETTER ENFORCEMENT

EFCTC supports customs to better identify illegal HFCs and calls for a system that connects customs data to the HFC registry.

REPORTING ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

The EFCTC Action Line allows everyone to report illegal activity, anonymously.

APPLYING MORE STRINGENT MEASURES

Harmonisation and consistent application of (higher) fines are key to ensure a better regulation.



STOP SMUGGLING. START TRACING.

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