

R22 phase out – what we can do to help

From 31st December 2009 no more virgin R22 refrigerant can be sold in the UK, in fact it will be against the law to even use virgin R22. Any virgin R22 still in the UK after that date must be sent for destruction, leaving only reclaimed R22 available to maintain existing systems. For more information please visit our website: www.thermofrostcryo.co.uk and click on the link entitled “F-Gas regulations”. In the run up to December it is expected that R22 prices will increase substantially, as may deposits on cylinders.

It is expected that reclaimed R22 will be in short supply, so difficulty may be experienced in maintaining systems if they lose refrigerant. The alternative options available are as follows:

- Replace the R22 refrigerant with a “drop in” refrigerant. We can supply R417A (MO59) for this purpose, in 11.5 kg or 56 kg cylinders. However there will be a small drop off in refrigeration capacity of approximately 3%. This option is applicable to both refrigeration and air conditioning systems.
- Replace the refrigerant with R404A, at the same time changing the condensing unit and expansion valve for ones that are compatible with this refrigerant, whilst retaining the existing evaporator. There may be a small drop in refrigeration capacity, and it is vital that all the old mineral oil is removed from the system. We can size and supply appropriate units and valves, which will of course carry our full warranty. This option is only applicable to refrigeration systems.
- Replace the entire system, in the case of refrigeration systems with a system using R404A, and for air conditioning a system using R410A. The new system will generally offer better performance and improved energy efficiency; a substantial improvement in the case of R410A air conditioners. We can size and supply complete systems for both refrigeration and air conditioning, which will of course carry a full warranty.

The end of availability of R22 will undoubtedly cause difficulties, however it does represent an opportunity for old, inefficient systems to be upgraded. New R22 refrigeration and cooling only air conditioning systems were phased out in 2002, and heat pumps at the end of 2003, so these systems are quite old now.

Thermofrost Cryo is here to help and assist you with the R22 phase out, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

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