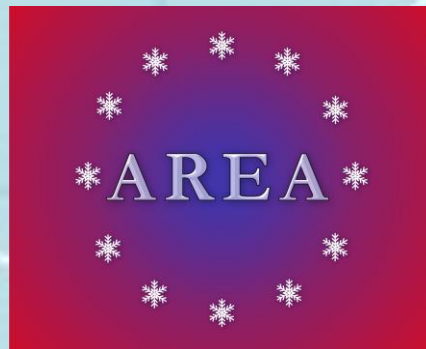


Skills for Zero Emission Buildings

EUSEW, 28 September 2022



About AREA

European association of national refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump (RACHP) associations, representing RACHP contractors and engineers.

- 25 national member associations
- 21 countries
- 13,000 companies employing 110,000 people
- 90% SMEs

Contractors are the essential link between end users and manufacturers.



EU ambitions

The European RACHP contracting industry fully subscribes to the EU's decarbonisation and climate ambitions set out in:

- European Green Deal
- Fit for 55 package
- F-gas Regulation

Contractors play an important role in the various transitions that are needed to meet the EU ambitions.



Transitions

The 4 main transitions for contractors to meet the EU ambitions are:

- Transition from gas boilers to heat pumps
- Transition from HFC's to low GWP refrigerants
- Transition from separate heating, cooling & ventilation units to integrated solutions
- Digitalization



Skills needed

To meet the challenges of these transitions and to stay in business contractors have to improve their skills significantly.

- Heat pumps request well trained and certified engineers and mechanics
- Low GWP refrigerants introduce major safety risks and need well trained technicians to install, maintain and operate
- Integrated climate solutions necessitate a complete other approach in engineering, installation, maintenance and demolition
- Digitalization needs to be implemented throughout entire companies: all co-workers need to be educated and trained.



Scheme & challenges

EU ambitious scheme to meet the climate goals which introduces major challenges for the contractors sector: It will take a significant amount of time to recruit, educate and certify the work force that is needed, while:

- Heat pumps take 4 times more time to install compared with gas boilers consequently we need at least to triple the work force
- Plumbers and heating contractors who were installing gas boilers for decades need to be trained and certified to install heat pumps
- We need to train and certify the entire workforce in safe handling low GWP refrigerants
- Digitalization and system integration also take years to be implemented in a conservative sector who is used to single solution analogue applications



AREA proposal about training and certification

- 1. Article 10 – Training and certification

Paragraph 1 should clearly establish that mandatory certification must be extended to alternative refrigerant greenhouse gases

The proposal must mandate the installation and maintenance of RACHP equipment with alternative refrigerants by certified installers only, as is the case now with HFCs.

- 2. It is necessary to extend periodical inspections and leak checks to alternative refrigerants to prevent safety risks on technicians, personnel and end-users.
- 3. Ban 18: extend the deadlines to:
 - (a) Single split systems containing less than 3 kg of fluorinated greenhouse gases with GWP >750 1 January 2028
 - (b) Split systems of a rated capacity of up to and including 12 kW with fluorinated greenhouse gases GWP >150 1 January 2030



Realistic timeline

- To recruit, train and certify the needed workforce for the transition to heat pumps, alternative refrigerants, integrated solutions and digitalization of the sector we need at least until January 2028.
- Manufacturers need this extra time to develop and produce products which are easier/quicker/safer to install, maintain and recycle
- This means deadlines in legislation also need to be extended within the same timeline



