



CoolNews

Quarterly periodical for the European contractors society working in the Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat pump sector

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International Women's Day 2021



Combi Cool



Spotlight on women shaping our industry

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, AREA shines the spotlight on 5 smart women in the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump sector

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AREA AFFAIRS

AREA celebrates the women who make our industry

Celebrated on the 8 March each year, International Women's Day is a special opportunity to shine the spotlight on women working in our industry, highlighting their unique experiences and expertise, and what led them on this career path.

This year, AREA has decided to showcase the opportunities in our sector by sharing the inspiring stories of five women and members of AREA, coming from a variety of backgrounds and expertise, supporting and playing a key role in shaping our industry:

- **Giulia Gaudino**, Marketing and Project Manager at *Gaudino SRL*
- **Blanca Gómez García-Verdugo**, Executive Manager of the Spanish Confederation of Contractors, *CNI*
- **Riina Lönnblad**, Project Manager at *Combi Cool*
- **Laura Pulkki**, Technical Support at *Danfoss*
- **Susana Rodríguez**, President of *Asofrío*



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As a woman in a “male” industry, I would say that this branch needs more women, bringing with them their vision and pragmatism. A new female point of view could be crucial for the refrigeration industry in the coming years.

Giulia Gaudino

Marketing and Project Manager at Gaudino SRL



This initiative received a fantastic support from all members, as well as hundreds of friends and followers of AREA of social media.

A huge thank you to our members for their help and of course, hats off to these amazing women who are great ambassadors for the quality, dynamism and diversity of our industry!

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

LEGISLATION

F-gas Regulation

Revision of the F-Gas Regulation

Late January, AREA [published](#) the results of an internal survey revealing that only between 3.5% and 7% of F-Gas certified personnel are trained on alternatives, depending on the refrigerant. Ammonia has the highest rate with 7%, closely followed with CO₂ (6.9%). HCs score 6.2% and 5.3%, depending on whether the equipment is small or large. Finally, only 3.5% of F-Gas certified personnel is trained on HFOs.

Table 4 - Proportion of F-gas certified personnel trained on alternatives

Ammonia	CO ₂	HC (small)	HC (large)	HFOs
7%	6,9%	6,2%	5,3%	3,5%

AREA internal survey, January 2021

This survey reinforced AREA's demands on certification on alternatives, further preparing the ground for concrete proposals that the dedicated AREA Task Force was working on at the time. It triggered quite a lot of interest in the specialised press, but also within stakeholders and in the European Commission.

A few weeks later, an AREA delegation consisting of the AREA President, the WG Refrigerants Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Secretary General met with representatives from Öko-Recherche, who is leading the ongoing F-Gas Regulation's review and impact assessment. Öko-Recherche showed great interest in AREA's proposals, prompting the Task Force to accelerate its work and come up with a complete set of proposals, and the Working Group Refrigerants to devise concrete proposals on other F-Gas topics.

A few very intense weeks followed with fantastic active involvement from many AREA experts. This resulted in the [publication](#), on 22nd March, of a set of concrete proposals on the extension of the F-gas certification scheme to alternative refrigerants. The proposals are based on the concept of 'alternative refrigerant greenhouse gases' that would make it possible to capture most alternative refrigerants whilst respecting the legal scope of the F-gas Regulation. They concern both the F-Gas Regulation 517/2014 and the Implementing Regulation 2067/2015, including a whole set of new minimum requirements for certification.



AREA also made concrete proposals on other aspects of the F-Gas Regulation, ranging from leak checking, sale of equipment pre-charged with alternatives, use of recycled refrigerants, definition of 'installation'... These other proposals were sent to Öko-Recherche and DG CLIMA but not published.

A consultation meeting is foreseen on 6th May. DG CLIMA intends to publish a proposal for a revision by the end of the year.

Use of R-290 in single split AC <7kW

Last year, the European Commission published a report on "The availability of refrigerants for new split air conditioning systems that can replace fluorinated greenhouse gases or result in a lower climate impact" (C(2020) 6637). In its conclusion, the report indicates that *"it appears technically possible to avoid F-gases today in new single split air conditioning with a cooling capacity below 7 kW by using the refrigerant R-290"*.

Whilst recognising the important role of natural and synthetic low GWP refrigerants in the green transition, AREA took a position reminding of the safety issues posed by HCs and listing prerequisites to any further consideration of HCs in air conditioning applications. These notably relate to installers' competence, regular maintenance and leak checking, and a framework on sales. The full position is available [here](#).

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

EPEE has adopted a comprehensive position substantiating the claim that it would be counter-productive to address F-Gases in the context of a REACH restriction proposal. Instead, EPEE recommends addressing all F-Gases, including HFOs, solely under the F-Gas Regulation as the most suitable framework, taking into account safety, energy efficiency, environment and health. The paper will be circulated to AREA members shortly.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

On 22 February, the European Commission published its [inception impact assessment](#) for the upcoming revision of the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\) 2010/31/EU](#). To deliver on the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate and energy objectives, the decarbonisation of buildings sector is vital. The buildings' energy related GHG emissions need to be reduced by 60% compared to 2015 levels to achieve the net 55% emission reduction target by 2030. A revision of the EPBD is necessary to deliver on the [Renovation Wave](#), which aims at doubling (at least) the annual energy renovation rate of buildings by 2030 and at fostering deep renovations.

[AREA's reply](#) to the EPBD review roadmap focused on the following aspects:

- The crucial role of RACHP contractors
- Contractors' skills and knowledge
- Growing demand for cooling
- Improving indoor environmental quality

In light of the EPBD revision, the European Commission (DG Energy) is organising a series of 5 stakeholder workshops. The first one on “Setting a vision for buildings and a decarbonised buildings stock” took place on 31 March and addressed the following topics:

- New metrics for long-term decarbonisation
- Missing elements of the existing legal framework
- Prioritized EPBD provisions to be revised
- Linkages to EED, RED II and other EU legislative measures

The second session on “Minimum energy performance standards for existing buildings” will be held on Thursday 15 April.

In parallel, the European Commission also launched on March 30th the [public consultation](#) on the revision of the EPBD which runs until 22 June.

Smart Readiness Indicator

The Delegated Regulation and the Implementing Regulation on the Smart Readiness Indicator entered into force on 10 January 2021.

As a reminder, the optional ‘smart readiness indicator’ (SRI) can be used to assess a building’s ability to adapt to advanced technologies in terms of its performance capacity and energy flexibility. The SRI comes as a form of support to the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

As next steps, the SRI will be tested in the EU countries that express interest in it. This will be supported by meetings with stakeholders and Member States in May and June 2021. The Commission will also contract a consultant in the coming months to provide communication and information tools in support of the SRI. The SRI can be subject to revision by 1 January 2026.

Heating and Cooling Roadmap

As a reminder, Trinomics is carrying out a study on “Policy Support for the Heating and Cooling Decarbonisation” on behalf of the European Commission – DG Energy, with the final aim to develop a heating and cooling decarbonisation roadmap. It will serve as a practical tool for policy makers at national and EU level to help design tailored approaches to decarbonise the heating and cooling sector.

As part of this project, the 2nd stakeholder meeting took place on 5 February. Discussion focused on three main topics:

- Building energy performance
- Decarbonisation of H&C in industry
- District heating & cooling.

AREA is developing a position paper to contribute to this study.

In terms of next steps, a stakeholder conference will take place in June to present the H&C roadmap which should be published in July 2021.

GENERAL

AREA partners again with VTS

AREA partnered again with ATMO Virtual Trade Show that took place over a 24-hour period from 30 to 31 March. The event included many webinars and presentations with the F-Gas Regulation's review, training and the Real Alternatives project among the themes.



This newsletter is reserved to AREA members

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