

Prior Annual Notification for the collection and transport of waste, returned and recovered refrigerants/halons/F-gases

- Are you a contractor in the refrigeration, air conditioning, heat pump and fire suppressant sectors?
- Do you carry out servicing and maintenance of equipment that may have CFCs*, HCFCs* or HFCs**?
- During servicing and maintenance, do you recover old refrigerants/halons/F-gases that need to be disposed of?

If so, you must comply with waste law for the collection of waste, returned or recovered refrigerants/halons/F-gases.

WHY? Most refrigerants/halons/F-gases are either *ozone depleting substances* or *fluorinated greenhouse gases*. When waste, they are considered hazardous. This means that the collection and transport of these waste gases can only be carried on by a contractor that has authorisation under waste legislation to do so in order to ensure environmental protection. Authorisation can be either

- A **Prior Annual Notification** (PAN) which has been submitted to and acknowledged by the Environmental Protection Agency, **or**
- A valid Waste Collection Permit issued by a Local Authority or National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO).

HOW? A Prior Annual Notification can be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by any person intending to collect and transport waste, returned or recovered refrigerants/halons/F-gases in gas recovery containers. There is **no fee** for submitting a PAN. However PAN's can only be submitted and acknowledged where the following conditions are met:

- such transport is incidental to your main business activity
- the quantity of waste, returned or recovered gases transported does not exceed 2 tonnes
- no mixing of different gases occurs
- the material is brought to an authorised facility***
- no venting or leakage occurs
- the waste will eventually be recycled, reclaimed or destroyed at an authorised facility in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements for the specific gas type.

How to complete a Prior Annual Notification:

- **Step 1:** Register as a User on www.edenireland.ie (this is a once-off exercise) (see Guidance Part 1 *Guidance Manual for First Time Users of the ODS & F-gas Compliance System Application* : <https://goo.gl/eJWOxL>).
- **Step 2:** Access the ODS & F-gas Compliance System on www.edenireland.ie and submit a PAN online (see Guidance Part 2 *Step-by-step Guidance Manual for the ODS & F-gas Compliance System Application* : <https://goo.gl/ljuDGn>).

A register of Prior Annual Notifications received and acknowledged by the EPA is maintained at <http://www.epa.ie/air/airenforcement/ozone/wasteods/priorannualnotifications>.

WHAT IF? Failure to comply may result in prosecution. The EPA is responsible for enforcing this requirement. Enforcement inspections and other enforcement measures will be carried out.

*CFCs (e.g. R 11, R12) and HCFCs (e.g. R22) are ozone depleting substances and are controlled by Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009 and the Control of Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 465 of 2011)

** HFCs (e.g. R410 a, R134a, R404a, etc.) are fluorinated greenhouse gases and are controlled by Regulation (EC) No. 517/2014 and the EU (Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 658 of 2011).

*** An authorised facility is a facility that has been granted an environmental authorisation through the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) in the form of a waste licence, a waste facility permit or a certificate of registration.

**** Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 820 of 2007, amended by S.I. No. 87 of 2008).