



Environmental Protection Agency  
*An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil*

## **DOES YOUR SCHOOL OR COLLEGE HAVE AIR CONDITIONING OR REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS THAT RUN ON R22?**

### **THE R22 FINAL BAN IS FAST APPROACHING**

#### **Schools and Colleges...**

be aware that R22 refrigerant gas will no longer be available from 1st January 2015. Older refrigeration or air conditioning systems may be running on R22 gas.

#### **Don't delay...**

now is the time for Schools and Colleges to prepare for the ban on R22 gas...

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**[WWW.OZONE.IE](http://WWW.OZONE.IE)**

## COUNTDOWN TO THE R22 BAN IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

- Do you have Refrigeration, Air-conditioning or Heat Pump equipment or systems in your school or college?
- Do any of your equipment or systems contain R22 refrigerant gas?  
Check the label on the side of the unit.

## IF SO, HOW WILL THE R22 BAN AFFECT YOU?

From 1st January 2015, the use of all R22 refrigerants will be banned; R22 refrigerant is a HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon), which damages the ozone layer if emitted. Equipment containing R22 can continue to be used beyond this date, but R22 cannot be used for maintenance or servicing.

As an educational institution, you should consider the potential impact of the R22 ban on your school or college and take steps to ensure that any of your critical equipment, such as cooling equipment for computer server rooms, is retro-fitted with an alternative gas or replaced before that date<sup>1</sup>.

Your refrigeration and air-conditioning contractor will advise you on the best options for your equipment and your school or college. Only use qualified contractors that hold company certification<sup>2</sup>. Ask to see your contractor's company certificate.

Please note that any refrigerant gas recovered from equipment in your school or college is considered a hazardous waste and must be managed accordingly.

Substances which damage the ozone layer are controlled by European and Irish legislation. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this legislation and monitors compliance on an on-going basis.

**Further information** is available on the EPA webpage: [www.ozone.ie](http://www.ozone.ie) or by contacting the EPA on Lo Call 1890 33 55 99 or [ods@epa.ie](mailto:ods@epa.ie)

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1. Newer systems are likely to run on F-gases, the use of which is also controlled see [www.fgases.ie](http://www.fgases.ie). Ask your contractor about alternative refrigerants with fewer controls and reduced impact on the environment. These include natural refrigerants (such as CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia or hydrocarbons) and low/very low global warming potential refrigerants.

2. F-gas Registration Ltd. ([www.fgasregistration.ie](http://www.fgasregistration.ie)) is the company certification scheme that operates in Ireland. Equivalent schemes operate in other EU Member States, and such certificates are valid in Ireland.

