



## R22 Phase-out – Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the risk in adopting a “do nothing” approach?

You are relying on the availability of reclaimed R22. According to the BRA (British Refrigeration Association) the industry is reclaiming only 12% of the current demand. This figure is based on what is currently being recovered as a percentage of what is currently being supplied as new, and will change as more systems are replaced with new and/or retrofitted with alternative refrigerants. It is safe to assume, however, that demand will far exceed supply, with the corresponding risk of unavailability and rising cost, plus the potential for running out of stock before the outright ban in 2014.

### What is the difference between recycled and reclaimed R22?

**Recycled** R22 is what we remove from existing equipment for re-use on the same site in the same (or other) equipment. **Reclaimed** R22 is recovered, returned to an approved stockist, chemically reprocessed to an approved standard, then returned to the market for use on any site.

### Can I stockpile recovered R22 for use up to 2015?

Yes, subject to hazardous waste regulations. R22 recovered can be stored on site for recycling, but only for a period up to 12 months.

### Can I keep existing un-used R22 after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> '09?

No. All R22, except that recovered for recycling, must be returned to an approved stockist for disposal.

### Do I need to remove all R22 from all equipment before Jan 2015?

No. If a system is still operating after the outright ban deadline, it will still be legal to operate it. But, of course, it will not be possible to add any R22, reclaimed or otherwise, to it.

### What are the benefits in retaining the equipment, but changing the R22 for an alternative?

Security of supply. There are ready stocks on the market of alternatives to R22, so the routine servicing and repair work can continue without the risk referred to above.

### By changing from R22 to an alternative, will I improve my carbon footprint?

No. The “drop-in” alternatives, unlike R22, have zero ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential). They are, however, greenhouse gases and therefore have Global Warming Potential (GWP) – in some cases, actually higher than R22. Plant efficiency remains about the same, so there is no energy saving benefit in replacing the refrigerant.

### What are the benefits in replacing the equipment?

New equipment will be more energy efficient, in some cases twice as efficient, due to new technology and the age of the R22 plant. With consequent savings on maintenance, plus the fact that most new equipment can be installed without needing to change the pipework, payback periods for investing in the replacement option can usually be attractive.