



A Guide To R22

R22 is being phased out due to its potential as an ozone depletion and potent greenhouse gas.

It is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) and has been predominantly used in air conditioning systems.

Production of R22 equipment will cease in 2010, however reclaimed R22 can be used until 2015. Supplies of reclaimed R22 are predicted to decrease due to the high demand, and the price is therefore expected to increase.

If your existing air conditioning system is more than five years old then it will most likely be using R22,

Changes in EU regulation will affect all companies that currently have plant containing R22 refrigeration. Critical deadlines are approaching and we recommend that you contact us to ensure you have budgets and a programme in place to ensure your business is not adversely affected.

Why should I replace my R22 systems?

Properly maintained systems can work for years however you may be shocked if you find your systems with problems in 2010, as you may not be able to get them fixed because R22 is not available. This may leave your building without heating and cooling.

If your supplier can get hold of reclaimed R22, due to its short supply, and forecasted high demand, the price for fixing your existing system is likely to be very expensive.

What are my options?

Option 1 Direct replacement refrigerants. Short term solution

These have been developed to drop into an R22 system to keep the unit going for a **short term**.

It is impossible to assess how well these will work until the procedure has been carried out and the units are started on the new gas. Tests have also indicated that in some cases they hinder performance, or even cause complete mechanical breakdown. Etherington Air Conditioning do not advocate this method.

Option 2 Plan your modernisation programme in line with the phase out of existing R22 plant, and take advantage of the governments current ECA Scheme.

Etherington Air Conditioning having carried out many rollout programmes for a number of prestigious companies and can help devise a plan in accordance with your budget and timescale requirements.

Although this option will cost in the short term , the Governments Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme can help ensure you offset the expenditure against your annual tax bill.

Additional benefits of replacing your existing equipment with new systems that contain R410a include the fact that the new gases are more energy efficient. You will get reduced running costs of 50% or more, plus greater control of your internal temperature.

Option 3 Replacement Technology

Replacement technologies allow your supplier to replace only the indoor and outdoor units with modern R410a systems . Your supplier will need to clean and prepare the existing pipework. The advantage of this option over the second is that completion can be quicker and may negate removing existing ceilings, so minimising disruption to the workplace.

You would still gain from more efficient running costs, and qualify for the governments enhanced capital allowance scheme.

To discuss your options further or for more information please contact us direct on 0113 2849808 or email us etheringtonac@aol.com

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