



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

BREXIT Implications for ODS and F-Gas Contractors

**This notice has been produced by the EPA and FGR in conjunction with
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**

BREXIT implications for ODS and F-Gas contractors

This is an important notice for individuals and companies certified by UK bodies to operate with Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Fluorinated Gas (F Gas).

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, ODS and F-Gas certificates and training attestations¹ awarded by a certification body in the UK will no longer be recognised within the remaining EU member states. The default date for the UK's exit from the EU is now 31 October 2019.

If you are affected by these changes and want to remain certified after a no deal Brexit, **you must take action** as set out in this notice. **If you do not make a valid application** within the required timeframe (i.e. procedures in advance of 11.00pm on 31 October 2019) or **if you are issued your UK certificate after a no deal withdrawal, then you will be unable to avail of the process outlined in this notice.** You will then need to be certified by a certification body within the EU-27 such as the Irish certification body F-Gas Registration Ltd (companies) or QQI (individuals). In the case of individuals this may require undertaking further training.

You are reminded that under Regulation 13 (1) (a) of the European Union (Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas) Regulations 2016, S.I. No. 658 of 2016, **it is an offence for a person, operator or undertaking, that does not hold the required F-Gas certification to engage in an act² without the required certification or attestation.**

This affects the following:

1. Companies and undertakings registered in the UK with certification bodies such as Refcom and Quidos; and,
2. Individuals who hold training certificates or attestations awarded by a certification body in the UK³ such as City & Guilds⁴.

¹ Qualifications

² Such as acquiring F-Gases, or undertaking activities on equipment such as leak checking, recovery, installation, repair/servicing or decommissioning

³ A list of such individual certification bodies can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/qualifications-required-to-work-on-equipment-containing-f-gas>

⁴ This includes circumstances where training was undertaken at a location in Republic of Ireland and the training certificate was awarded by a certification body in the United Kingdom such as City & Guilds

1. Companies and undertakings registered in the UK with certification bodies such as Refcom and Quidos

Under regulation 12F of the European Union (Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas) Regulations 2016 as amended, a company which holds a valid certificate issued by a certification body in the UK in advance of UK withdrawal may apply to the designated Irish company certification scheme, F Gas Registration Ltd (FGR), for a certificate in respect of the activity.

- Valid applications must be made to FGR in accordance with its procedures. Further information available at <https://www.fgasregistration.ie/exchange-certificate> or contact info@fgasregistration.ie.
- The application **must be accompanied** by a valid UK company certificate. Incomplete applications or applications containing false or misleading information will be invalid. **If you have mislaid your UK certificate please contact your UK certifying body as a matter of urgency as you will not be able to apply for a replacement Irish certificate without submitting your UK certificate.**
- FGR may contact you to verify details of your application.
- If FGR determines an application has been made in accordance with its procedures in advance of 11.00pm on 31 October 2019, then FGR shall issue the certificate applied for.
- This replacement certificate will be valid until the end of the year in which it is issued, and will allow you to work in the EU, including Ireland. When the replacement certificate expires, companies will have to recertify with a certification body in the EU-27 through the normal company certification process.
- There will be no fee for making this application.

2. Individuals who hold training certificates or attestations awarded by a certification body in the UK such as City & Guilds

Under regulations 12B and 12J of the European Union (Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas) Regulations 2016 as amended, if you hold a certificate or training attestation which was issued by a certification body in the United Kingdom in advance of UK withdrawal, you may apply to the Environmental Protection Agency for a training certificate or attestation in respect of the activity.

- Valid applications in respect of the activity to which the certificate or training attestation relate must be made by completing an online [application form](#)⁵. Please ensure you select the correct form for the certificate you currently hold.
- The application **must be accompanied** by a valid UK certificate or training attestation. Incomplete applications or applications containing false or misleading information will be invalid. **If you have mislaid your UK certificate, please contact your course provider or the UK certifying body as a matter of urgency as you will not be able to apply for a replacement Irish certificate without submitting your UK certificate.**
- If the EPA determines an application has been made in accordance with its procedures in advance of 11.00pm on 31 October 2019, then the EPA shall issue the certificate or training attestation applied for and will maintain a register of all EPA certificate holders.
- This certificate or training attestation will allow you to work in the EU, including Ireland.
- There will be no fee for making this application.

Furthermore, the FGR and the EPA reserves the right to suspend or withdraw certificates at any point in the future including where false or misleading information is found to have been provided in any way under this process.

⁵ <https://www.epa.ie/air/airenforcement/ozone/training/brexitodsfgas/>

Data Protection Policy:

Information disclosed in an application for a certificate, including any data and sensitive personal data, may be shared with Government Departments and any employee, subcontractor or agent on their behalf for the purposes of processing that application. In providing details in an application you also provide permission to the Department and its agents to verify the status of UK certificates with the original issuing certification body.

Application form for individual certification:

Please note that the application form for individual certification is hosted by SurveyMonkey® when using SurveyMonkey® you will be bound by its privacy policy.

The EPA privacy policy may be viewed at <http://www.epa.ie/footer/privacy/>

We wish to remind you that the EPA data protection policy applies to personal data that we collect/process through your use of the EPA website. It does not apply to any links to third-parties' websites and/or services, such as third-party applications, that you may encounter when you use the Website. You acknowledge that the service that we provide may enable or assist you to access the website content of, correspond with, and purchase products and services from, third parties via third-party websites and that you do so solely at your own risk.

We make no representation or commitment and shall have no liability or obligation whatsoever in relation to the content or use of, or correspondence with, any such third-party website, or any transactions completed, and any contract entered into by you, with any such third party and the use by any such third-party of your personal data. We do not endorse or approve any third-party website nor the content of any of the third-party website made available via the Website. We encourage you to carefully familiarise yourself with terms of use and privacy policies applicable to any websites and/or services operated by third parties. Please be aware that we are not responsible for the privacy practices of any third parties.

The personal data that we collect from you may be transferred to and stored by the EPA. It may also be processed by our staff. By submitting your personal data, you agree to this transfer, storing or processing of your personal data by EPA for purposes set out in this Policy. If you have any queries related to the basis upon which we process your personal data please contact us at dpo@epa.ie.



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

