

How can my ATF meet its obligations around Air Conditioning (AC) System Gases?



ATFs are subject to the ELV Regulations, F-Gas Regulations and the ODS (Ozone Depleting Substances) Regulations which all place obligations on those dealing with AC gases (and fluids) used in refrigeration systems.

Checking for and removing AC Gases from ELVs is a required part of the depollution process

1 Training Required

Anybody recovering (i.e. removing) F-Gas AC gases, from cars and light vans is required to hold a Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) F-Gas handling certificate in accordance with the F-Gas Regulations.

In Ireland this is the QQI Level 5 *Special Purpose Award in Handling F-Gas Mobile Air Conditioning Systems in Certain Motor Vehicles* (award code 5S21699).

2 Equipment Needed

MAC refrigerant recovery equipment

If the gas is to be reused in another vehicle the vacuum pump must have an embedded filter.

Recovery cylinder(s)

Separate cylinder for each gas type. Cylinders have expiry dates and should not be used after this date.

Scales

A means of recording the weight of recovered gas.

3 Identifying which Gas

AC systems are labelled with the type and amount of gas present.

Information for each marque and model can also be found on IDIS (www.idis2.com).

4 Record Keeping and Reporting

Keep records of any AC gases recovered, including any recycled (reused) on site or sent off site for recycling/reclamation/destruction by yourselves or a third party. Details recorded should include the name and address of the purchaser, the MAC certificate details of the person(s) recovering the gas (at the ATF and the purchaser if applicable), the date and amount sold (net weight).

Gases stored, recycled (reused), reclaimed or sent for destruction should be recorded in your Waste Permit Annual Return, reported using the waste code 14 06 01* or in Kg in the Parts for Reuse section of the ATF Survey.

AC Fluid/Gas Types

AC gas (fluid)	Type of vehicles	Use	F-Gas or ODS?	Recovery options
R12	All	Used prior to 1994.	ODS	Destruction only, cannot be recycled (reused) or reclaimed.
R134a	M1 and N1	Used in cars and vans placed on the EU market prior to 2017.	F-Gas	Can be recycled (reused), reclaimed or destroyed.
	All other types	Ongoing.		
R1234yf	All	In use since around 2008, increasingly used instead of R134a.	F-Gas (Annex II)	Recycled F-Gases can have a monetary value.
R456A	All	From 2022.	F-Gas	

New types of refrigerants are being developed, particularly for use in electric vehicles.

Cylinder Labelling Text

Required Text	F-Gas cylinder label	ODS cylinder label
Gas contained	This cylinder contains fluorinated greenhouse gases	This cylinder contains Ozone Depleting Substances
List the gas type	R134a	R12
List the net weight of the gas in Kg	XX Kg	XX Kg
List the intended destination of the recovered gas	For recycling/reclamation/destruction	For destruction
For recycling, you must also add	Name of recycling facility (name and address of your ATF)	N/A

This summary is derived from the EPA guidance document *Recovery of Air Conditioning System Fluids from ELVs at Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) and Metal Shredder Sites* and is intended as a guide only. You can read the full guidance document on the ELVES website www.elves.ie/ForATFs.