


# PHASING DOWN **F-GASES AND OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES** TO DELIVER ON OUR CLIMATE TARGETS

April 2022

## What are F-gases and ODS?



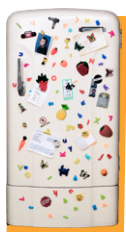
Fluorinated gases (F-gases) and ozone depleting substances (ODS) are **highly potent greenhouse gases** (GHG) that contribute to global warming when released into the atmosphere. Their warming potential is often thousands of times higher than that of  $\text{CO}_2$ .

**ODS** are prohibited because they create a hole in the ozone layer, let more ultraviolet radiation from the sun in and endanger our health.

**F-gases** are human-made **fluorinated gases**, some of which replaced ODS. They account for 2.5 % of total EU GHG emissions.

## Where are F-gases and ODS used?

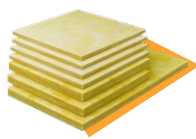
F-gases can be used in everyday products such as:



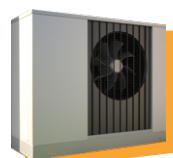
refrigerators



aerosol sprays



insulation



heat pumps



air conditioners



power lines  
(in switchgear)

ODS use is already very restricted. Some are still allowed in chemical production, laboratories and for analytics, while reclaimed ODS are used in specialised fire protection, e.g. in airplanes.



airplanes



chemical production



laboratories



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## What has the EU done so far?

In 1987, the **Montreal Protocol** established a global phase-out schedule for production and consumption of nearly 100 **ODS**. The EU and its Member States signed it and phased out the different groups of ODS, often many years ahead of schedule – prohibiting production, trade and use of ODS, with very few exemptions.

In 2016, the **Kigali Amendment** was signed to regulate **F-gases**, more specifically hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) representing around 90% of all F-gases, because of their climate impact. Even ahead of this global agreement, the EU had introduced legislation that significantly limited the use and emissions of F-gases.

EU legislation in place has been very effective in reducing these emissions, but more needs to be done.

## What is the Commission proposing now?

**The new proposal on F-gases** would reduce emissions even further and provide incentives to use climate-friendly alternatives. This will reduce the potential climate impact of new hydrofluorocarbons coming onto the EU market by **98%** between 2015 and 2050. The strengthened proposal will reach total additional savings equivalent to 310 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from now until 2050.

The proposal would:



phase down HFCs more quickly



tackle the illegal trade of F-gases with stricter customs checks and harsher penalties



prohibit the use of F-gases in a number of important sub-sectors, such as air conditioning and heat pump applications, switchgear, and refrigeration



update certification so technicians can better handle climate-friendly alternative to F-gases



ensure EU complies with its international commitments



improve monitoring and reporting



include more F-gases

**The new ODS rules** will prevent the equivalent of 180 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from now until 2050.

The proposal would:



make the rules on ODS simpler and easier to enforce



introduce the obligation to recover ODS from old foam construction materials



make ODS monitoring more detailed and include new substances

The two new regulations would represent a significant step **towards limiting global temperature rise in line with the Paris Agreement**. The F-gas proposal will also contribute to **reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and making Europe climate-neutral by 2050**.