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# Heat Pumps & why they should only have Natural Refrigerants

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Heat Pumps & why they should  
have Natural Refrigerants

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Proud  
to be a



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# Absolutely Chilled are the Sole Distributor for REFRA products in the UK

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**Refra**<sup>®</sup> has been manufacturing refrigeration / Heat Pump products for over 30 Yrs and Hydrocarbon products for over 10yrs. They have a range of 24 ASHP's that span from 30kw to 450kw with max temp of 70°C, along with WSHP's up to 1.6MW producing max temp 85/90°C and are targeted to T/o € 45M in 2025

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NOTES: Absolutely Chilled Ltd, ( ACL ) Heat Pump Dept will shortly be changing its name to Absolutely Pumped to more accurately reflect our products for this market sector.

# Agenda:

- 1, Current legislation
- 2, List of Gases it covers
- 3, The next and even bigger problem than GWP
- 4, The Solution
- 5, Summary

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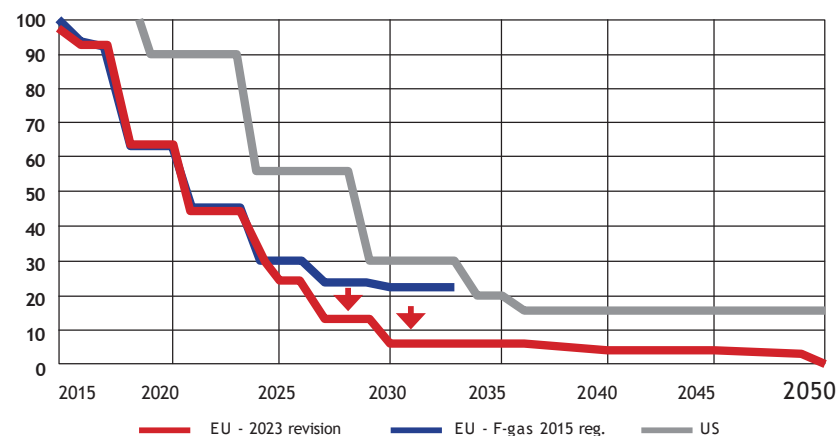
NOTES:

## The review of the EU F-Gas regulation:

The EU F-gas regulation is considered a front runner, preceding the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and going beyond the latter.

The first EU F-gas regulation came into force in 2006 with a focus on containment and service. In 2015 the second version came into force, introducing the phase down of high GWP hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants. On February 20, 2024 the new EU F-gas regulation was published in the official Journal of the EU.

The latter is an extremely ambitious regulation with a long-term full phase out of F-gases. The EU and the US phase down are illustrated in Figure 1 where the 2015 F-gas regulation is shown in comparison with the new 2024 agreed phase down. From 2025 the quota is reduced significantly compared to the previous phase-down and from 2030 the available amount of F-gases even for service is challenged.



\*Source:  
12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimate - Approved - Propane R290 -  
HVAC Standards & Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

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**NOTES:** The phase down for HFC's ( Hydrofluorocarbons ) or also know as Fluorinated gases has been taking place since 2006 , with much more stringent criteria being applied as the damage being done became more apparent

You may recall a lot of talk about Ozone Depletion ( ODP ) being caused by these gases

It then moved on to Global Warming Potential ( GWP ) and this is brought about a figure that was attributed to all these gases in which they could be gauged how much they were contributing to Global Warming

For a bit of Context , when the phase down started the most popular gases like R502 and R12 had GWP's between 5 & 10,000.00

## So what gases included in the revised proposal are likely to apply to the Heat Pumps you are likely to specify?

R454B A2L 467 GWP

R1234ZE A2L 7 GWP ( HFO-**PFAS** )

R1234yk A2L 4 GWP ( HFO/**PFAS** )

R32 A2L 675 GWP ( HFC )

R513A GWP 631 HFC/HFO has a blend of PFAS as it contains R1234yf

R134A GWP 1430 HFC

R410A GWP 2088 HFC

R32 GWP 675 HFC

## NATURALS

R290 / GWP 3

R717 / GWP 0

R600 / GWP 3

R744 / GWP 1

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**NOTES:** As you will now recognise high GWP is not the future and for the first time we see PFAS , more about this in a minute

Natural's , being R717 ( Ammonia ) R744 ( Co2 ) and R290 ( Propane ) R600 Isobutane range between 0 & 5

You may recall a lot of talk about Ozone Depletion ( ODP ) being caused by these gases

It then moved on to Global Warming Potential ( GWP ) and this is brought about a figure that was attributed to all these gases in which they could be gauged how much they were contributing to Global Warming

## Here is a list of the rest of them...

Refrigerants affected. The list of single component refrigerants defined as PFAS are:

- HFC125
- HFC134a
- HFC143a
- HFO1234yf
- HFO1234ze(E)
- HFO1336mzz(E)
- HFO1336mzz(Z)
- HCFO1224yd
- HCFO1233zd(E).

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NOTES: these are a list of gases that is banned or in the process of being phased out .....in short

The potential bans on these single component gases affect the vast majority of refrigerant blends, some of which are already banned under the European F-gas regulations or under restrictions due to their high GWPs.

#### **R407C**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFC134a)

GWP1774. Replacement for R22 in AC equipment.

#### **R407E**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFC134a)

As above. HFC retrofit alternative to R22. GWP 1550.

#### **R407F**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFC134a)

A1 replacement for R22 and R404A in low and medium temperature applications. Its GWP is 1824

#### **R407H**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFC134a)

R22 retrofit replacement in refrigeration systems with limited modifications. It has a GWP of 1495.

#### **R410A**

(HFC32/HFC125)

Needs no introduction as a major refrigerant in larger AC systems.

#### **R444B**

(HFC32/HFC152a/HFO1234ze(E))

A replacement for R22, with a GWP under 350.

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**R446A****R447A****R447B**

(HFC32/HFO1234ze(E)/R600)

Blends with differing ratios of R32, R1234ze and R600.

**R448A**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFC134a/HFO1234yf/HFO1234ze(E))

Honeywell's Solstice N40 for new and retrofit retail food refrigeration (refrigerated food processing and dispensing equipment). GWP 1387.

**R449A**

(HFC32 /HFC125 /HFC134a/HFO1234yf)

Chemours' Opteon XP40 for new and retrofit retail food refrigeration (refrigerated food processing and dispensing equipment). GWP 1400.

**R449B**

(HFC32/125/HFC134a/HFO1234yf)

An Arkema blend similar to R449A, with a GWP 1410.

**R450A**

(HFC134a/ HFO1234ze(E))

Has been used in supermarkets in cascade systems with CO2. A GWP of around 601.

**R452A**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFO1234yf)

Sold by Chemours as Opteon XP44, R452A has a GWP of around 2141. Actively promoted as a "drop-in" conversion for

R404A in refrigerated transport and commercial refrigeration

**R452B**

(HFC32/HFC125/HFO1234yf)

A rival to R32 as an alternative to R410A, R452B is an A2L gas with a GWP of 676.

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**R454B**

(HFC32/HFO1234yf)

Chemours R454B is a lower flammability A2L refrigerant blend with a GWP of 466. Adopted by some major manufacturers for chillers and rooftop units.

**R455A**

(CO2/HFC32/HFO1234yf)

**R456A**

(HFC32/HFC134a/HFO1234ze(E))

Koura's Klea 456A, a non-flammable refrigerant with a GWP of 626. Touted as a drop-in for R134a in mobile AC systems.

**R459A****R459B**

(HFC32 /HFO1234yf/HFO1234ze(E))

**R469A**

(CO2/HFC32/HFC125)

Developed by Weiss Technik, a German environmental test chamber manufacturer. An R23 replacement with a GWP of 1357 for low temperature applications.

**R473A**

(CO2/HFC23/HFC125/HFO1132a)

Koura gas with a GWP of 1830 for low temperature applications.

**R508B**

(HFC23/PFC116)

R508B is a blend of R23 and the perfluorocarbon R116. A high GWP of 13,396 with applications in low temperature refrigeration.

**R513A**

(HFO1234yf/HFC134a)

Manufactured and marketed by Chemours as Opteon XP10. A non-flammable A1 blend with a GWP of around 630. Uses in chillers and heat pumps.

**R514A**

(HFO1336mzz(Z)/R1130(E))

Developed by Chemours and marketed as Opteon XP30, R514A is designed as a replacement for R123 in centrifugal chiller applications.

**R515B**

(HFC227ea/HFO1234ze(E))

Replacement for R134a in new chiller applications. An A1, non-flammable refrigerant blend with a GWP of 293.

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Although not specifically mentioned in the PFAS proposal document, the definitions could also affect:

**R472A**

(CO<sub>2</sub>/HFC32/HFC134a)

Developed by Angelantoni Test Technologies, R472A is another lower GWP replacement for R23 in ultra low temperature applications.

**R454C**

(HFC32/HFO1234yf)

Opteon XL20 low GWP (148) A2L alternative in refrigeration, air conditioning, dehumidification and heat pump applications.

**R468A**

**R468B**

**R468C**

(HFO1132a/HFC32/HFO1234yf)

**R466A**

(HFC32/HFC125/131I)

Honeywell's Solstice N41, the much vaunted but yet to be launched non-flammable replacement for R410A.

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**IN SHORT... IF THE GAS STARTS WITH AN R1, R4 OR R5, BE ALERT TO IT!**

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## ACRONYMS

- 1, GWP , Global Warming potential
- 2, ODP , Ozone depleting Potential
- 3, PFAS , per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances,  
short: PFAS

This is an area some of you may be less familiar with ... but this will become a bigger issue than GWP and ODP. It will be of the highest importance!

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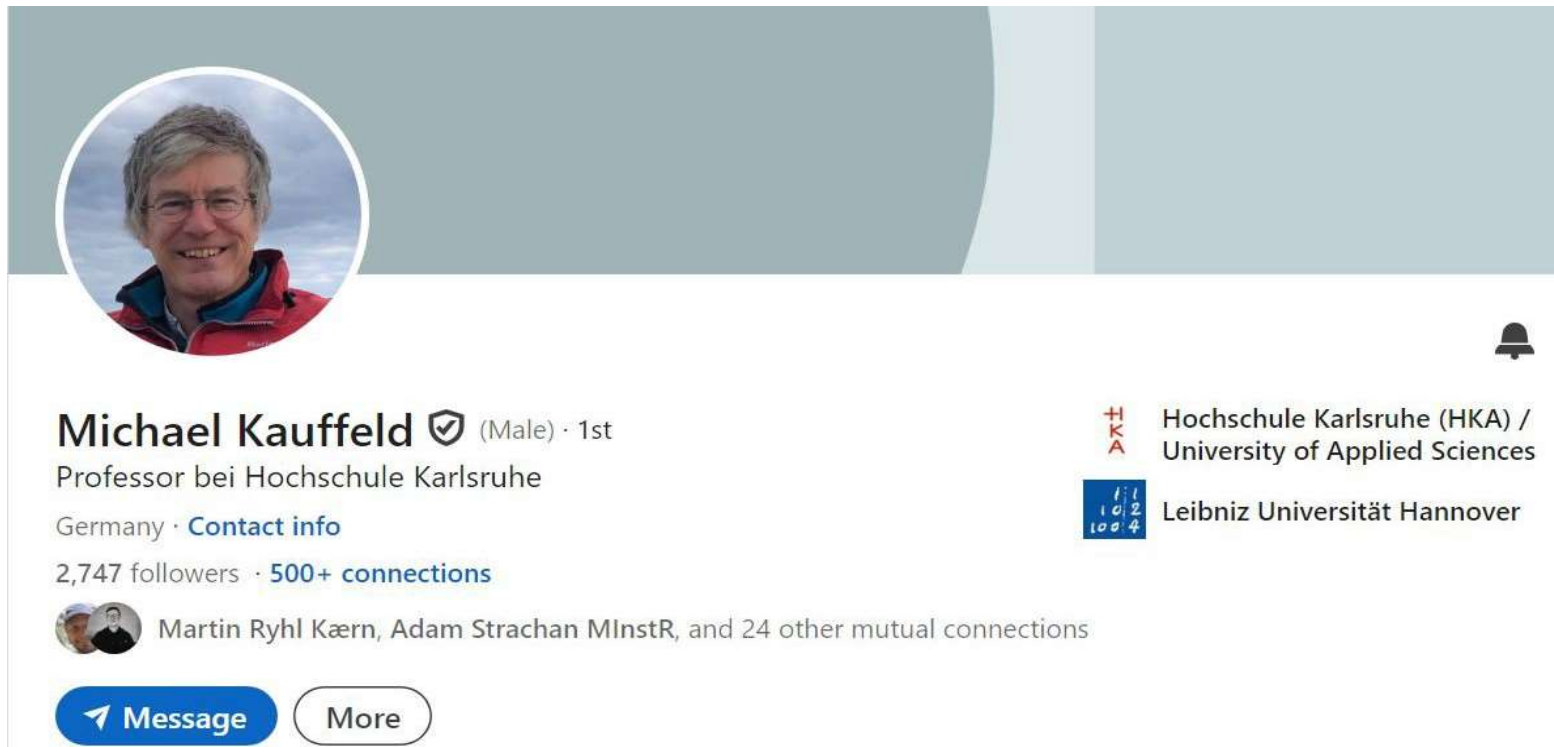
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**NOTES:** So short recap on Acronyms and as you will have just seen we are rapidly dealing with the high GWP and ODP problems with the phase down. However as you I am about to show you , we now have an even bigger problem with the next set of chemical gases that are offering ultra low GWP's. They are PFAS's / also known as forever chemicals

**@MichaelKauffeld (on LinkedIn) is the recognised industry expert on PFAS.**



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 2,747 followers · 500+ connections

Hochschule Karlsruhe (HKA) / University of Applied Sciences  
 Leibniz Universität Hannover

Martin Ryhl Kærn, Adam Strachan MInstR, and 24 other mutual connections

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**NOTES:** Please note that I have included Dr Kaufeld , as I don't want you to walk away after today and think that all of what I have spouted is made up unverified nonsense , he brings the impartial facts. Dr K presentation is from 2024 ATMO conference in Prague.

Dr Kauffeld is a industry leading expert and I would urge anyone remotely interested in this subject to follow him on LINKEDIN There is some interesting push back from him to the chemical Co's who are trying to promote their wares

Around the same time the ozone hole was related to CFCs and the Montreal Protocol regulated their phase out. For society this hole was somewhere up the southern hemisphere. For sure not nice, but no reason to panic, just too far away...

HFCs came as they have no Ozone Depleting Potential. But HFCs contribute to global warming. Meanwhile climate change takes place in everybody's garden. 2024 is the warmest year since weather data recording. Climate change is already much closer...

Now low Global Warming Potential f-gases like HFOs are to minimize climate change. Yes, these molecules may decompose quickly in the atmosphere and have a low GWP. But many are directly classified as PFAS or their breakdown products forms Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA), which also belongs to the PFAS family.

These per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, short: PFAS are a problem. Named also “forever chemicals” they stay around for really long time. They are today found globally in soil and drinking water in critical concentrations. PFAS accumulate in people, animals and plants and have toxic effects. They are known to cause cancer and harm reproduction or the development of foetuses. This time the problem is really close: it is inside our bodies and impacts all of us directly...

**PFAS will become a bigger issue than the ozone hole or even climate change.**

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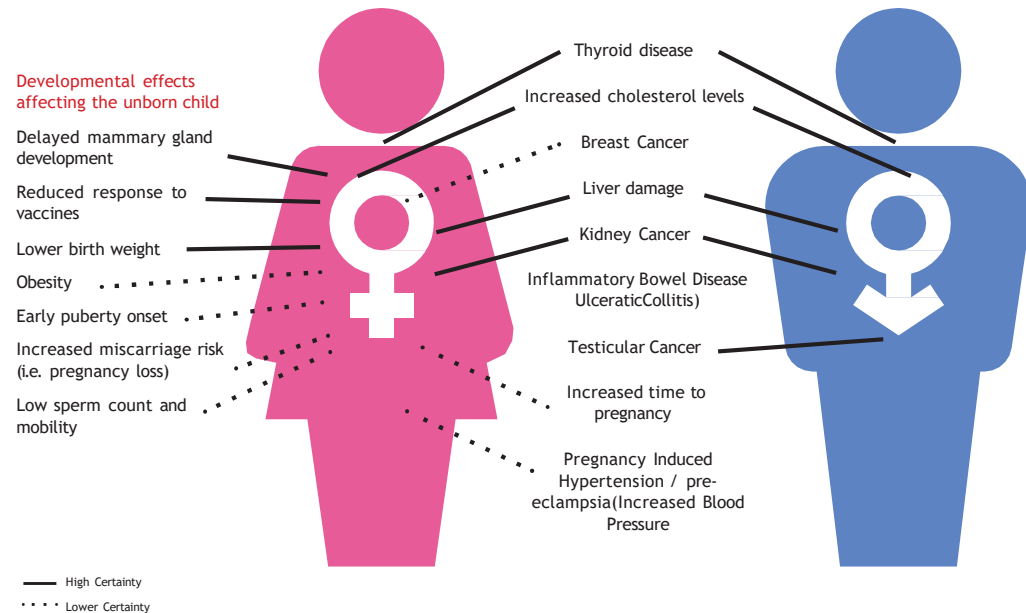
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**NOTES:** Possibly the most important slide on the whole presentation

If you don't pay attention to any others, just take this one on board. Highlighted text and Dr Kauffeld's quote in red

# Effects of PFAS on human health



There are indications from mammalian toxicity studies that TFA is toxic to reproduction and that it exhibits liver toxicity

Arp., HPH.; Gredelj, A.; Gluge, I.; Scheringer, M.; Cousins, I.T.: The Global Threat from the Irreversible Accumulation of Trifluoroacetic Acid (TMA). Environ. Sci. Technol. 2024, 58, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.4cU6189>

US National Toxicology Programme, (2016); C8 Health Project Reports, (2012); WHO IARC, (2017); Barry et al., (2013); Fenton et al., (2009) and White et al., (2011). <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emerging-chemical-risks-in-europe>

(c) Prof. Dr. Ing. habil. Michael Kauffeld

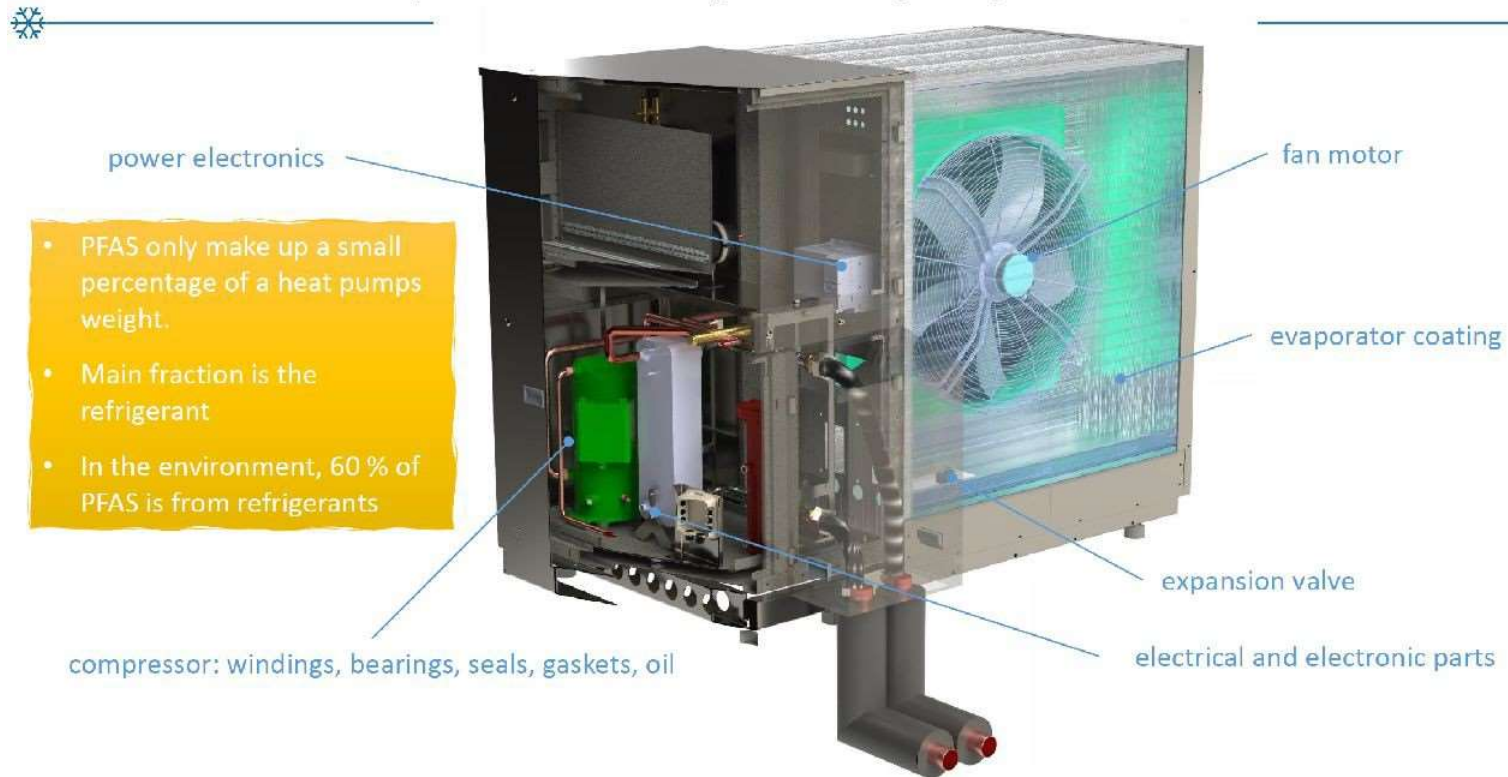
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**NOTES:** So maybe your thinking that al a bit dramatic. Well here is some details form the US National Toxicology Program report in 2016 and lets just ignore the low certainty lines and stick with the high certainty.

KIDNEY CANCER	LOWER BIRTH WEIGHT
THYROID DISEASE	REDUCED RESPONSE TO VACCINES
TESTICULAR CANCER	

## PFAS in HVACR systems – example heat pump



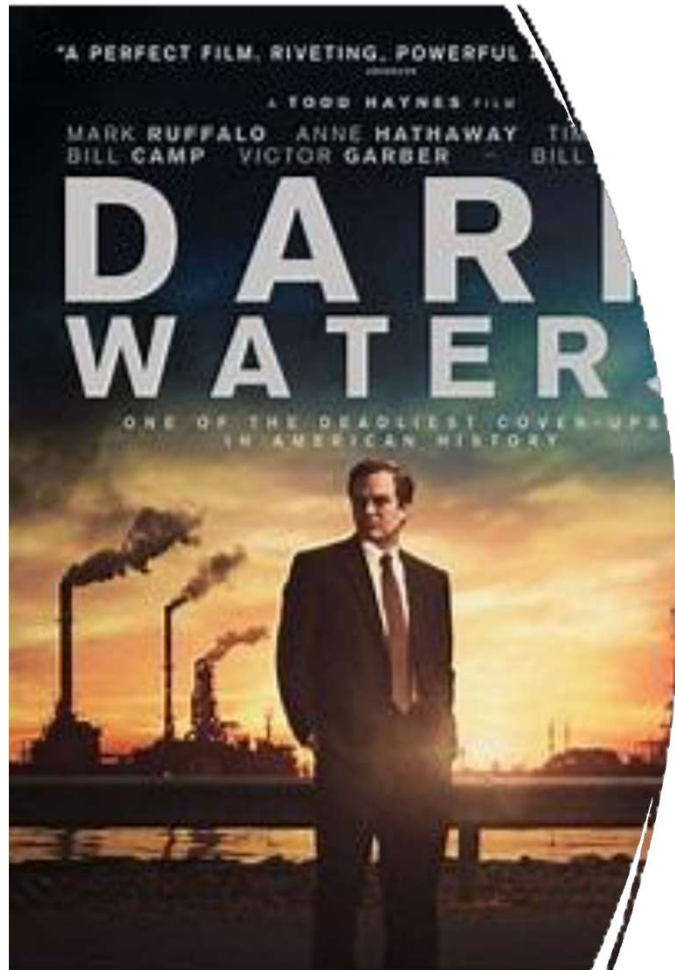
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NOTES: 60% OF THE PFAS COMES FROM THE GAS





A more accesible and interesting way to communicate the dangers and downsides of PFAS - Based on a True Story.

## DARK WATERS

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**NOTES:** So , If you are an old sceptic like me or a there's a bit of the Donald Trump in you and you think this is all made up crap.

Take 2 hrs and watch Dark Waters , this is a dramatization of a lawyer fighting the chemical company Dupont who manufactures many products that contain PFAS , one of their companies manufactures refrigerant gases.

In short the chemical company paid out over \$1B USD , sounds to me like there is some truth in this .



## So what's stopping you from using a Hydrocarbon?

1: Efficiency?



2: Lifecycle Cost?



3: Safety?



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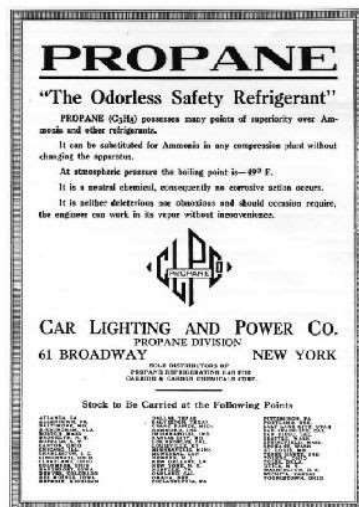


**NOTES:** It's a real shame what we have been doing to the environment , especially when we have had viable alternatives around for such a long time or well before the chemical Co's pushed there products

## PFAS free refrigerants for HVACR systems

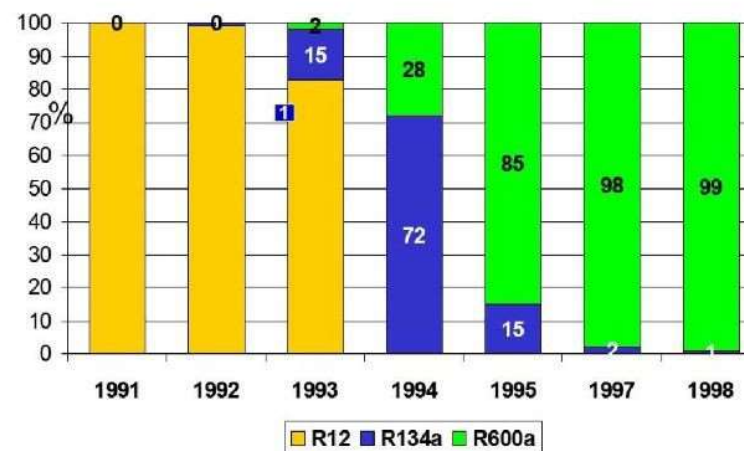


- ☐ Ammonia
- ☐ CO<sub>2</sub>
- ☐ Propane
- ☐ Propene
- ☐ Iso-Butane
- ☐ Pentane
- ☐ Water



Ad in American refrigeration magazine, 1922

Refrigerants used by German refrigerator manufacturers



Heat pump industry will follow same pattern  
*just 30 years later*

© Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Michael Kauffeld

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NOTES: Why did we ever start using these when we had such viable alternatives for so long?



This week we walked down to Lake Constance: beautiful, the first snow in the mountains and lots of clear water around me. But PFAS concentration go up here, too. So, I got the idea for this post and we took a picture of me pointing up to the sky.

Besides me you see various PFAS sources: Firefighting foam or agriculture substances bring PFAS directly in contact with soil and ground water. With beauty products, non-stick surfaces for food and drinks or clothing we are in direct contact to PFAS. And aerosols or gases like refrigerants take PFAS into the atmosphere.

1

**First good news:** Legislators start to react: Organisation like ECHA clarify the next steps to restrict PFAS under REACH.

2

**Second good news:** Refrigerants related PFAS contaminations can be avoided: Do just not use f-gases.

3

**Third good news:** My thermodynamic professor was right: All was known. Old books from before the f-gases era describe how all refrigeration can be based purely on natural refrigerants.

After 30 years in this industry I am sure that any application performs perfect with natural refrigerants, even at lower first cost and for sure when considering f-gas related clean-up. Therefore, hashtag#GoNatRefs and contribute to a hashtag#pfasfree world.

**The first step in solving a problem is recognising there is one.**



**Professor Michael Kauffeld**

Feb 2025

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**NOTES:** ECHA is: European Chemical Agency

REACH is a regulation of the European Union, adopted to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals,

# EFFICIENCY

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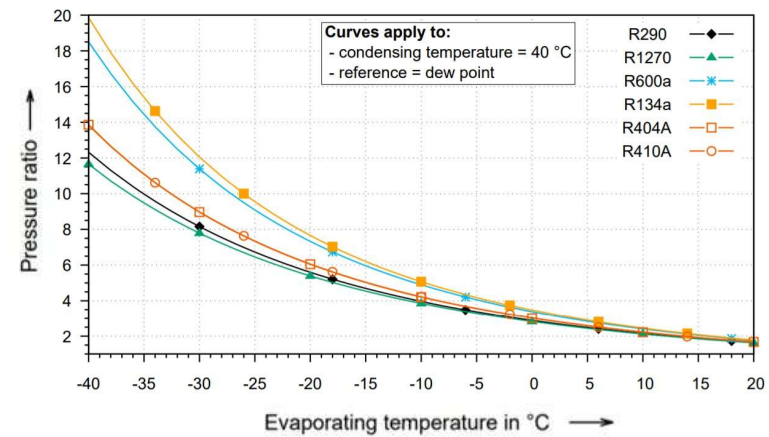
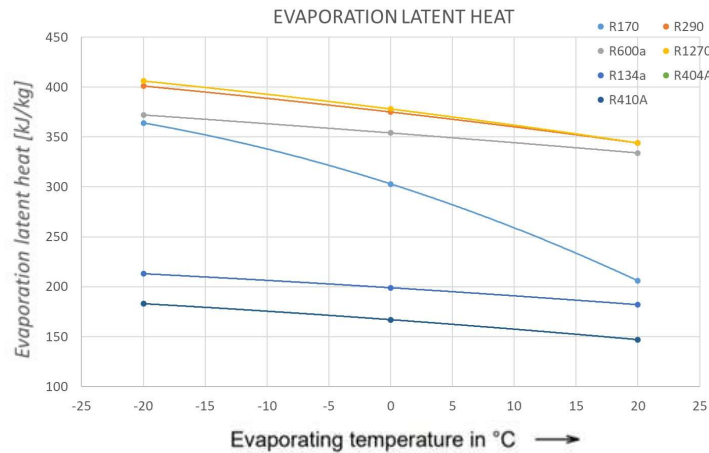
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NOTES:

## THERMODYNAMIC ADVANTAGES



High heat transfer performance

Low pressure ratio (condensation on evaporation pressure)

Thanks to the excellent thermodynamic properties of propane, smaller heat exchangers are required

Space reduction

\*Source:

12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimate - Approved  
 - Propane R290 - HVAC Standards &  
 Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

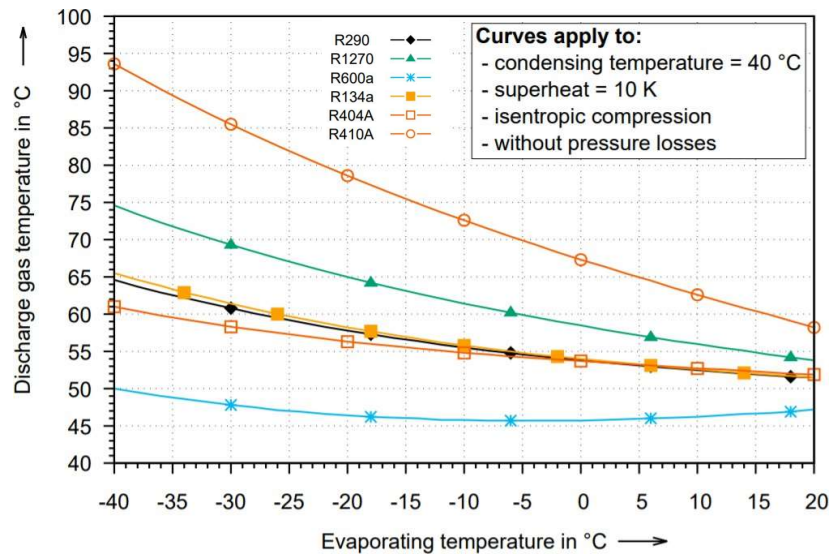
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NOTES: The 3 best performing refrigerants for high heat transfer are all naturals.

The graph on the right demonstrates the naturals R290 and R1270 working at lower pressure.

## COMPRESSOR'S GAS DISCHARGE TEMPERATURE - A COMPARISON



- If the discharge gas temperature is too high, decomposition of lubrication oil occurs
- **Low discharge temperature has a positive effect** on compressor materials, components and stability of the oil

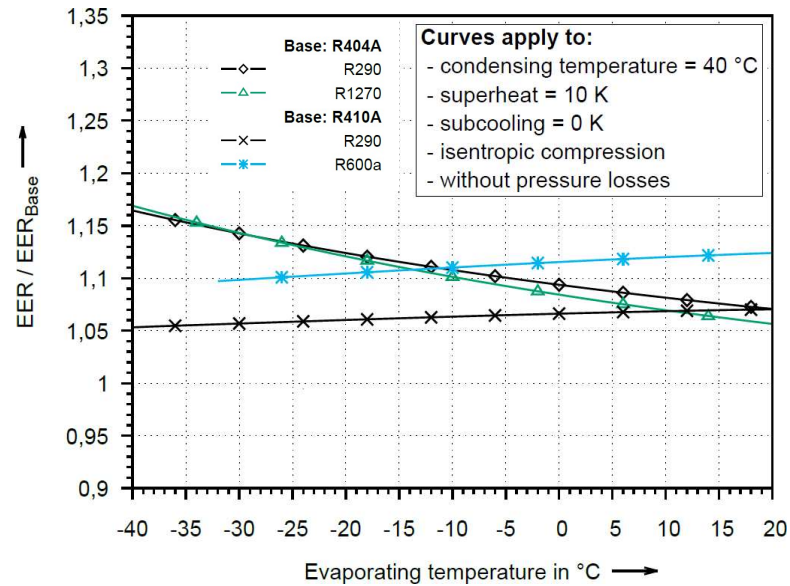
\*Source:  
12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimat - Approved - Propane R290 -  
HVAC Standards & Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

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NOTES:

## EER COMPARISON



\*Source:  
 12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimat - Approved - Propane R290 -  
 HVAC Standards & Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

- Ratios of refrigeration capacity to required compressor power **for an ideal cycle**.
- Hydrocarbons EER relative to those of the fluorocarbon baseline refrigerants.
- **Compared to R410A** EERs for R290 and R600a are **between 5% and 12% higher**.
- This simplistic comparison of EERs is indicative of the **strong potential for energy efficient operation of HC systems**.

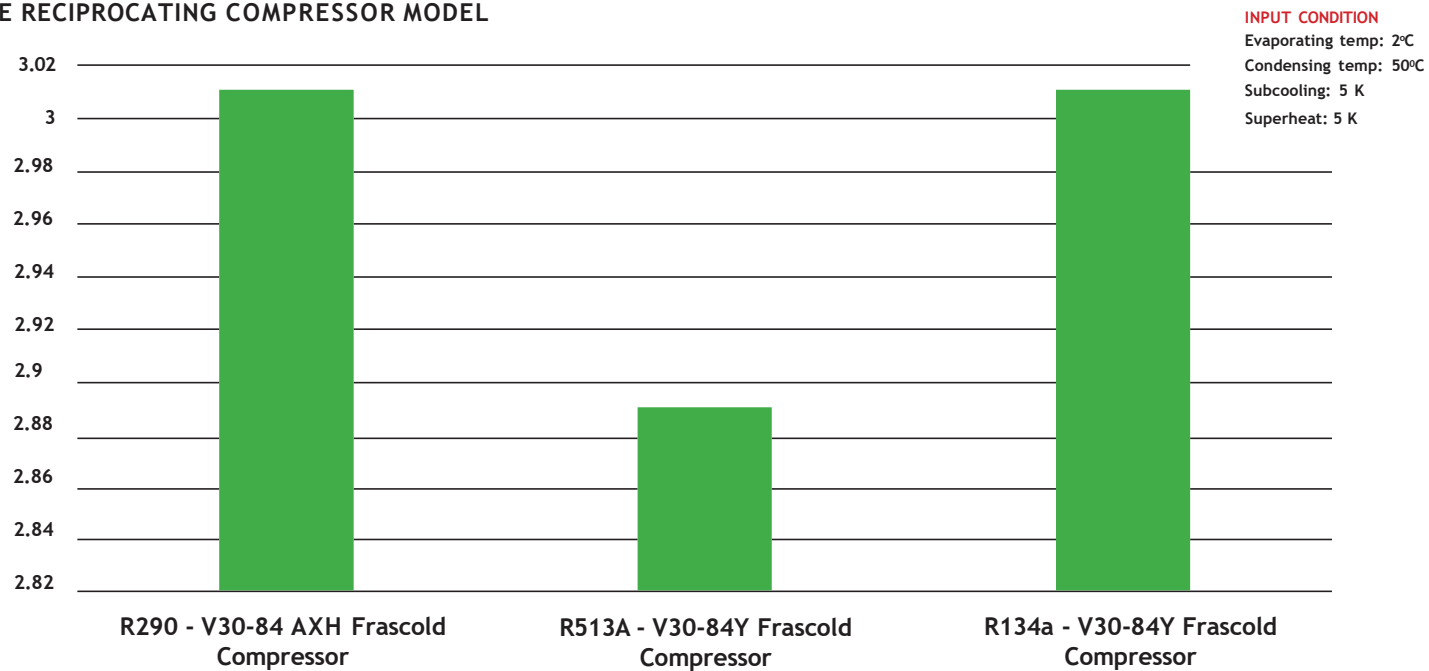
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NOTES:

## PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

### SAME RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR MODEL



\*Source:  
 12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimat - Approved - Propane R290 -  
 HVAC Standards & Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

EER

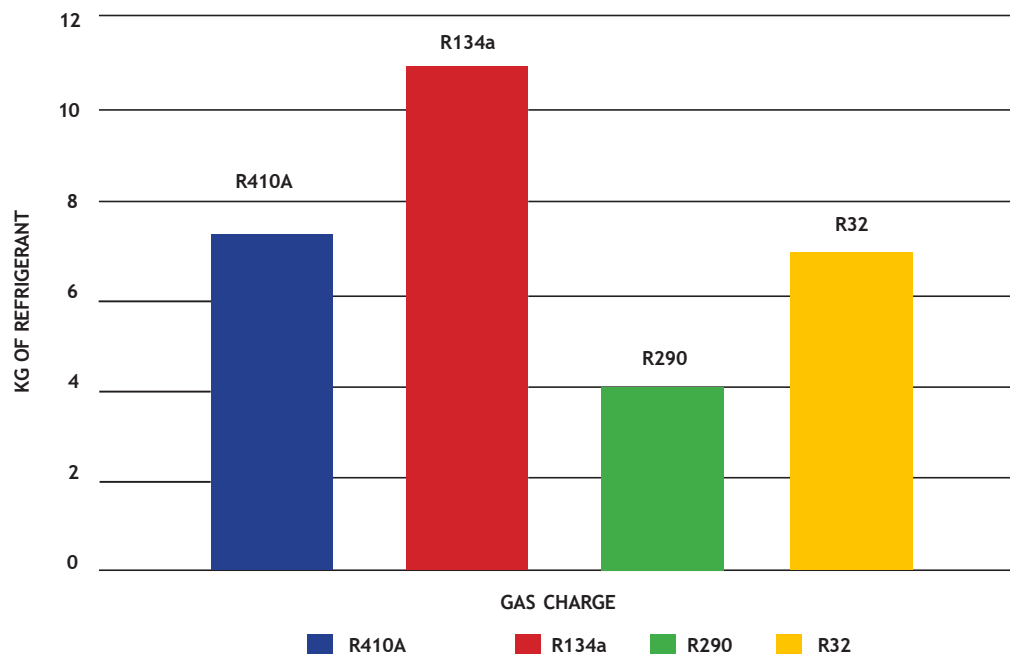
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NOTES:



## GAS CHARGE COMPARISON



## INPUT CONDITION

Cooling Capacity: 50KW

User Temperature: HT

Application: process



Every unit that operates with natural refrigerant **R290** instead of **R410A** allows to save CO<sub>2</sub> emission equivalent to an average car journey of 42,000km, a complete trip around the world.

\*Source:

12.15-13.15(3)Euroklimat - Approved - Propane R290 - HVAC Standards & Safety - HVAC Thermodynamics

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NOTES:

# LIFECYCLE COST

If you don't use a natural then shortly the gas will become difficult to obtain. Therefore reducing the lifespan of the equipment. This is before you even consider any damage to the planet or individual human beings.

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## NOTES:

1. Naturals are not getting phased out
2. At least as efficient in most scenarios
3. Require smaller heat exchangers and smaller gas charges
4. This is before you consider using gases that damage the environment, people and animals.

# SAFETY

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NOTES:



## SAFETY

## 111 Conclusions

REFRA chiller CW-C22R1192IX with thin frame and special leak algorithm, with constantly working emergency fan 1 and emergency fan 2 in case of leak detection, during the testing did not reach LFL level more than 50% of LFL.

	First positive test	Second positive test	Third positive test
Start Time	11:46:00	11:55:30	12:04:10
Start pressure, bar	8,10 bar	8,30 bar	7,70 bar
End Time	11:51:05	12:00:30	12:09:50
End pressure, bar	6,90 bar	6,70 bar	6,20 bar
Avarage leak rate g/s	3,20 g/s	3,60 g/s	3,40 g/s
Max LFL levell.	14%	25%	27%

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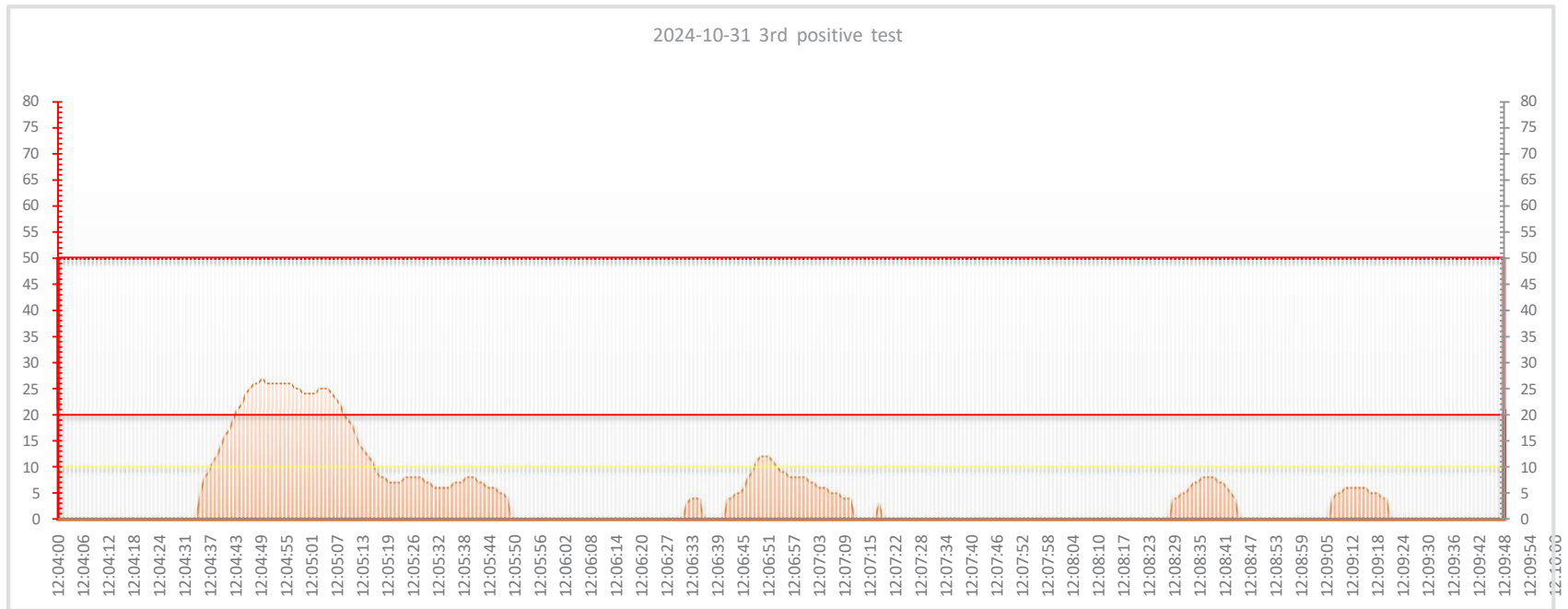
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NOTES: REFRA's test results as per EN378 requirements  
Each heat pump has these tests carried out and results are available.  
each heat pump comes with a complaint DESEAR report from an independent DESEAR consultant.

## SAFETY

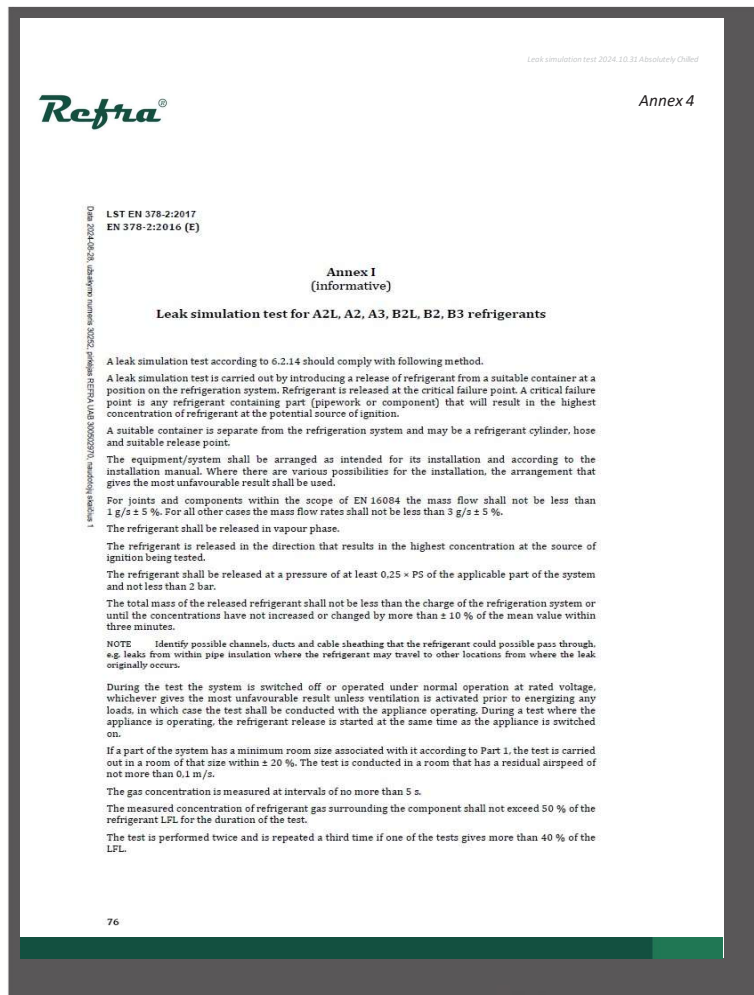


\*Source:  
Refra Gal02 Annex Leak Report

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NOTES:



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NOTES:

## SAFETY LOGIC

1: Leak detection , 2 STAGE  
ACTIVATION 10% ALARM 20%  
ALL POWER IS HUT DOWN ,  
Atex fans run

2: Audio / Visual alarm ,  
activated at 10& LFL

3: Pressure switch , Subject  
to the size of the unit , it may  
have 1 or 2 ATEX fans that are  
sized to remove 800M3 P/  
Hr . If 1 it runs continuously  
to prevent stagnation /  
any potential pockets of  
R290 forming , if 2 fans , the  
run alternatively and are  
supervised by a pressure  
switch , should there be no  
pressure , the ASHP shuts  
down

4: ATEX FAN

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## DETECTOR

### PolyXeta System

- Every unit is equipped with a stand-alone gas detection sensor.
- The sensor is **ATEX Certified** and is pre-calibrated at the factory.
- Standard Alarm setting: **10% of LFL**

### PolyXeta Systems - Main Features

- ATEX/IEC Ex certificates
- Type "Ex d" with flame-proof enclosure
- 4-20 mA output signal
- RS485-Modbus** output signal
- Alarm and fault signal relay
- Continuous monitoring



NOTES: Explain leak detection and safety shutdown procedure highlighting ATEX fans and ventilation.

# SUMMARY

- 1, We started phasing out gases with a GWP of 10,000.00 nearly 20 years
- 2, By 2030 , the vast majority of these gases will be reduced to approximately 5/10% of there original amount in the market and leading to a total ban
- 3, 99% of non naturals either effect GWP or are PFAS
- 4, Before you consider specifying a heat pump , check what the gas is
- 5, Why use a gas that is destroying OUR world , when you have alternatives that are as or more efficient and have no environmental side effects

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NOTES:





*Proud  
to be a*

**NATIONAL  
ACR & HEAT PUMP  
AWARDS**

**2025 WINNER**

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND TIME.

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NOTES:



*Proud  
to be a*

**NATIONAL  
ACR & HEAT PUMP  
AWARDS**

**2025 WINNER**

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NOTES: