The Future of RAC Training and Certification in the EU

Promoted by AREA (https://area-eur.be/)
Key words: certification, training, alternative refrigerants, F-Gas Regulation
6 speakers, 1 hour | Moderator: Mr Marco Buoni

Wednesday, 14th October, 9.40 - 10.40 am | Chillventa Forum, Nuremberg, Hall 8-512

AREA would like to present its members' position and the latest developments regarding the implementation of the new F-Gas Regulation (EU) 2024/573.
AREA fully supports the ambitions and objectives of the Regulation, particularly in view of the increased competence requirements associated with new technologies and alternative refrigerants.
However, AREA members and European countries are currently at different stages in the development and implementation of training and certification schemes for alternative refrigerants. To fully achieve the Regulation's objectives and unlock its full potential, AREA wishes to present and discuss practical proposals on how F-Gas training and certification schemes can be implemented effectively, ensuring a consistent and high-level skills upgrade across Europe.
This short seminar aims to shed light on several important and timely topics:

1. **Capacity building, safety and certification**
    - Focus on flammable refrigerants and safe working practices.
    - The importance of robust training, assessment and certification schemes.
2. **Supporting the achievement of EU climate goals**
    - Ensuring that the transition required by the F-Gas Regulation is matched by the availability of suitable equipment, lower-GWP refrigerant alternatives, and adequately trained personnel, including technicians and engineers.
3. **Challenges associated with alternative and natural refrigerants**
    - Addressing flammability, toxicity and high-pressure applications.
    - Ensuring safety, reliability, energy efficiency and environmental performance throughout the equipment lifecycle.

The seminar includes six high-level speakers - both AREA Members and the sister pan-African Association U-3ARC, to deliver presentations concerning the programme. Each presentation will be in English language and last about 8 minutes; the event will conclude with a final debate (with Q&A) to wrap-up the session.

Moderator **Marco Buoni**, AREA - Board, w/ mandate International Affairs

1) Stepan Stojanov, AREA – President
ABC Certification in light of F-Gas 3.0, Successful National Implementations

2) Thanos Biris, AREA – VicePresident
The importance of training and certification on alternative refrigerants for the success of the F-Gas regulation

3) Marco Buoni, AREA – Board, w/ mandate International Affairs
Real Alternatives, Training and certification 4 Alt Refs: available schemes in Europe

4) Jörg Peters, VDKF – Bundesfachschule Kälte-Klima-Technik
Natural, flammable refrigerants in education: future-proof, environmentally friendly and safe to use

5) Said El Harch – U-3ARC – VicePresident *(partner of AREA)*
Europe and Africa together for a sustainable and safe refrigeration

Final debate with the audience