



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Environment

Joshua Hassan House

Secretary's Lane

Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

No. 57/2007

Date: 16 March 2007

SUCCESSFUL TRAINING - THE OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (QUALIFICATIONS) REGULATIONS 2006.

The Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006 came into force on the 18th January 2007. The aim of these Regulations is to ensure that personnel handling certain ozone depleting substances are properly trained and become competent in controlling and minimising releases of these substances into the environment.

The Regulations stipulate the minimum qualifications required by maintenance and service personnel that handle these substances during the carrying out of the following activities: -

1. Service and maintenance of refrigeration; air conditioning and heat pump equipment.
2. Service and maintenance of commercial and domestic refrigerators and freezers.
3. Dismantling of fixed refrigeration and air conditioning systems which can only be dismantled at the place at which they are used.
4. Decommissioning of fire protection systems and fire extinguishers.

The Environmental Agency in conjunction with the Department for the Environment have, for the benefit of the personnel working in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry, organized two courses which led to the award of The City and Guilds Certificate in Handling Refrigerants (Scheme 2078). This is one of the courses recognized under the Regulations for the purpose of these personnel becoming competent in the handling of these substances.

These courses were run at Bleak House from the 5th to the 19th March 2007 and a total of 38 engineers from the local industry attended and successfully completed their training.

The courses which consist of a combination of theoretical training in addition to a two hour practical assessment of each candidate were delivered by the Principal of the Refrigeration Department of Grimsby Institute of Higher Education.

It is pertinent to note that any person engaged in any of the aforementioned activities subsequent to the 9th April 2007 without holding the required qualifications under these Regulations will be committing an offence and liable to prosecution.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon J. J. Netto, has welcomed both the introduction of these regulations, and the necessary training for the safe handling of controlled substances, which will now only be conducted by qualified personnel therefore reducing the risk of improper handling and the danger of further contamination.

The Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006 can be accessed at : <http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/>.