

Study on the Market Penetration of Natural Refrigerants by 2030 in Germany

The so-called “phase down”, referring to a stepwise reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the European Regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gas Regulation), came into force in 2015. The aim of the framework is to cut EU’s F-gas emissions to contribute to the necessary overall emission reductions in the industrial sector in the Union by 70 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. A recent study of the German Environment Agency (UBA) has determined the current quantities of HFCs used in various sectors and applications in Germany. In addition, projections provide information on the potential future use of natural refrigerants.

The study shows that the use of natural refrigerants in 2030 will vary greatly depending on the sector and application. While natural refrigerants will prevail in food retail stores, no breakthrough is expected in stationary air conditioning systems, according to the study. The study results show that a great need for action is required in order to promote the use of natural refrigerants across industries - the steps of the HFC phase down cannot be implemented in time in Germany with the available alternatives. In addition to comprehensive information activities, research and the consistent further development of technologies as well as adapted technical standards are required to pave the way for natural refrigerants.

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