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Published by The Institute of Refrigeration
Kelvin House, 76 Mill Lane
Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2JR

Tel: 020 8647 7033
Fax: 020 8773 0165
Email: ior@ior.org.uk

www.ior.org.uk

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FOREWORD

This Code of Practice has been prepared under the authority of the Institute of Refrigeration and has been ratified by the Council of the Institute. The Institute decided that increased use of flammable refrigerants would necessitate a separate Code of Practice focusing on the unique characteristics of these A2 and A3 classification refrigerants. The publication in 2008 of the revised refrigeration safety standard BS EN 378: 2008 “Refrigerating systems and heat pumps – Safety and environmental requirements” warranted a revision of the original A1/A2 and A3 codes of practice. Requirements for A2 refrigerants have been moved from the Safety Code of Practice for Refrigerating Systems Utilising A1 Refrigerants to this code. This Code should be read in conjunction with the European Standard BS EN 378: 2008.

This Code is for the use and guidance of everyone concerned with compression refrigerating systems utilising A2 and A3 refrigerants as defined in Section 1. “Everyone” means every person with responsibility through ownership, consultancy, design, construction, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance, inspection, repair, modification or testing of a system. Attention of such people is drawn to their wider responsibilities as defined within the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. In particular, they are reminded that when a system has been altered or repaired the pressure envelope must be proved again by testing at least the altered or repaired sections together with any other parts of the system which cannot be isolated from them. Under PSSR 2000, appropriate written schemes of examination and associated inspections must have been conducted and under DSEAR 2002 the various regulations associated with assessment of risk, reduction of risk, zoning, marking, instructing must be in place

The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000) and the European Regulation on Certain Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (842/2006) (“F-gas” regulations) impose certain obligations on the ‘user’ (called the ‘operator’ in the F-gas Regulations) of refrigerating equipment. It is noted that whilst the most common flammable refrigerants tend not to be controlled by the F-gas regulation, it is nonetheless good practice to attempt to follow its requirements, since it is always desirable to avoid emissions of any refrigerant. This Code is intended to complement and reinforce details in BS EN378:2008 and other relevant standards as referred to in this Code or its Appendices. Nothing in this Code is intended to conflict with British Standards and where relevant standards already exist their recommendations have been recognised and incorporated where appropriate.

Advice as to the intended meaning of this Code or any part of it shall be the responsibility of the President of the Institute of Refrigeration for the time being or of such person or persons as they shall nominate. The Code will be reviewed from time to time by the Institute and, when necessary, revisions will be published. Copies of the Code may be purchased from the Institute of Refrigeration, Kelvin House, 76 Mill Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2JR. Enquiries concerning the Code or its application should be addressed to the Secretary of the Institute at the above address.

The Institute of Refrigeration welcomes all comments and suggestions relating to this or other Codes of Practice, so that future versions can be improved upon.