

## **Action needed by 31st Oct 2019 if businesses/employees possess certificates for work with F-gases or ozone depleting substances in products/equipment and work in the Republic of Ireland's jurisdiction**

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, certificates gained from a UK-based certification body will no longer be valid for F-gas/ODS work in the Republic of Ireland ("RoI").

F-gases are fluorinated greenhouse gases, which have a high greenhouse warming potential, if emitted. ODS are ozone depleting substances, which damage the ozone layer if released into the atmosphere.

F-gases and ODS are used in refrigeration, air-conditioning, and fire protection equipment, amongst others.

Businesses and individuals working with these products/equipment require certificates to prove that they can effectively carry out their work without inadvertently emitting F-gases or ODS.

Businesses working in the RoI with F-gases or ODS in equipment, even if just partially, may therefore need to take action before 31st October 2019. This would apply to both company and individual certificates.

To assist businesses and employees, the Irish government is operating a scheme whereby equivalent certificates can be gained which are valid for work in the RoI.

Proof of possession of existing certificates, granted by UK-based certification bodies, is required before the additional RoI certificate can be provided.

Companies may apply to the designated Irish certification scheme, F Gas Registration Ltd (FGR), if they need this type of certificate.

The process is free of charge, but must be completed before the deadline of 11pm on 31st October 2019.

Please note that there are two separate websites through which both company and individual certificates can be provided.

For company certificates, the procedure can be found on the F-gas registration website (Republic of Ireland): <https://www.fgasregistration.ie/exchange-certificate>

For individual certificates, the procedure can be found on the RoI Environmental Protection Agency website:

<http://www.epa.ie/air/airenforcement/ozone/training/brexitodsfgas/>

After 31st October 2019, the process might no longer be free of charge, and certificate holders may be required to undergo training to acquire a new certificate to legally carry out work with F-gases and/or ODS in the RoI.