



IEC 60335-2-89 standard: Allowing larger quantities of climate-friendly alternatives in commercial refrigeration

The signatories of this paper support a higher charge size limit of climate-friendly technologies using hydrocarbons and call for a positive final vote of IEC 60335-2-89.

The final draft international standard (FDIS) IEC 60335-2-89 provides safety requirements for commercial refrigerating appliances which limit the use of larger quantities of climate-friendly flammable refrigerants, such as hydrocarbons. The standard is being developed by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in its Sub-Committee 61C and will soon enter its final vote stage by IEC members, i.e. National Committees.

The final draft of the standard contains positive amendments to the previous standard, which posed barriers to the use of climate-friendly flammable refrigerants through tight limits to the allowed charge size. These limits do not allow refrigeration manufacturers to reach the minimum amount of refrigerant enabling them to provide the desired cooling capacity.



If the vote is positive, the draft standard would allow up to about 500g of hydrocarbons in commercial refrigeration, thus removing barriers to the use of climate-friendly alternatives.



If the vote is negative, the FDIS will be referred back to the Sub-Committee to be reconsidered. This could result in a delay of an already lengthy process, as well as an attempt to lower the ambition of the FDIS. The main outcome of a negative vote will be in itself another barrier for the deployment of climate-friendly alternatives to refrigerant gases.

The standard paves the way for the increase of the use of climate-friendly refrigerants – a significant contribution towards the mitigation of climate change.