

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

General Guidance for Switchgear Containing SF₆

Guidance: F Gas and Ozone Regulations

Information Sheet SCS 5: Qualifications & Certificates

April 2012

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This Information Sheet provides information on the requirements for training and certification of personnel working on electrical switchgear containing sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Personnel carrying out activities resulting in the recycling, reclamation or destruction of SF₆ from switchgear must have appropriate qualifications. End-user companies are obligated to ensure they only use personnel, be they contractors or in-house staff, that have the appropriate qualifications to undertake activities which require the recovery of SF₆ from switchgear.

1 Summary of Relevant Legislation

For switchgear containing SF₆ the basis of all personnel qualifications and certification is set out in the EU Regulation on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (the F gas Regulation, EC/842/2006).

A further Commission Regulation, EC/305/2008 provides extra details and defines the training requirements for users of switchgear containing SF₆.

The relevant EU Regulations as listed above provide the basis for full training requirements as these Regulations set the minimum requirements the qualifications need to meet.

The GB Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (Statutory Instrument 2009 No. 261) lists the certification and evaluation bodies that are able to provide qualifications that meet the minimum requirements of EC/305/2008 for those recovering SF₆ from switchgear.

The above Regulations are collectively referred to as “the F gas Regulations”.

2 Activities Requiring Personnel Training and Certification

Personnel involved in activities resulting in the recycling, reclamation or destruction of SF₆ from switchgear require a certificate to prove they have appropriate qualifications. In particular, this applies to SF₆ recovery.

The qualification requirements apply to all personnel undertaking activities that require the recovery of SF₆ from switchgear be they in-house staff or contractors.

3 Personnel Requirements: Switchgear containing SF₆

Full Requirements from July 2009

The minimum requirements for certification of personnel recovering SF₆ from switchgear are set out in Commission Regulation 305/2008. These requirements probably go beyond the content of previous qualifications or in-house training. From 3rd July 2009 all personnel wishing to recover SF₆ from switchgear need to hold a full personnel certificate that meets these minimum requirements.

Personnel wishing to undertake recovery of SF₆ from switchgear need to hold either:

- One of the GB qualifications that meet the minimum requirements. See Table 1 for details,
- A European qualification recognised under mutual recognition provisions. See Section 6 for more details.

Table 1 Details of Certification and Evaluation Bodies and Qualifications offered

Certification and Evaluation Body	Contact Details	Qualification
ABB Limited	Daresbury Park, Daresbury, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4BT Telephone: 01925 741111	Not currently offering a course in the UK. No information on future plans.
Alstom Grid UK Ltd (formerly Areva T&D UK Limited)	St Leonards Avenue, Stafford, ST17 4LX Telephone: 01755 25 00 70 E-mail: technical.institute@alstom.com W: www.alstom.com/grid/findyourtraining/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF6 Gas recovery <u>Depending on experience:</u> 2 day course including assessment - (ref V0033E) 3.5 day course including assessment - (ref V0032E)
EAT Technology Limited	Capenhurst Technology Park, Capenhurst, Chester CH1 6ES. Telephone: 0800 028 7243 Email: events@eatechnology.com W: www.eatechnology.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF6 Gas competence (ref V0485) 2 day course including assessment.

Lucy Electric UK Limited	Howland Road, Thame Oxfordshire, OX9 3UJ Telephone: 01844 267267 Contact: Henry Brown	Currently only provides training for internal employees which meets the requirements of EC 305/2008.
Schneider Electric Limited	123 Jack Lane, Leeds, LS10 1BS Telephone: 0113 290 3500 Contact: Kevin Jones Email: Kevin.jones-gbt-d@gb.schneider-electric.com	Not currently offering a course, but may do in the future
Siemens Transmission and Distribution Limited	2 Koppers Way, Monkton Business Park South, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2EZ Telephone: 0191 401 5449 Contact: Phil Letouze Email: phil.letouze@siemens.com W: https://product-training.siemens.com/power-academy_static/static_documents/Katalog_PA_US_110324.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SF6 Gas competence – operational course 2 day course including assessment.
E.ON UK plc	Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry, CV4 8LG Telephone 02476 424000	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
EDF Energy Networks (EPN) plc	40 Grosvenor Place, Victoria London SW1X 7EN. Telephone: 0207 752 2209	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
EDF Energy Networks (SPN) plc		
Electricity Northwest Limited	Dalton House, 104 Dalton Avenue, Birchwood Park, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6YF Telephone: 01925 534550.	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	1-3 Strand, London, WC2N 5EH Telephone: 01623 870100	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.

Scottish and Southern Energy plc	Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ Telephone: 01737 456000	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Scottish Power Development	Dealain House, Napier Road, Wardpark, Cumbernauld, G68 0DF Telephone: 0141 636 4752	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Western Power Distribution (South Wales)	Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol BS2 0TB	If providing training this is only to internal candidates - best available knowledge at time of writing.
Western Power Distribution (South West)		

4 Exemptions from Personnel Qualifications

The following exemption for personnel may apply.

- Trainees are exempt for up to 1 year, but they must work under the supervision of a person with a requisite F gas qualification and they must be enrolled on a relevant training course to obtain one of the appropriate F gas qualifications.

5 Taking Delivery

This obligation applies to an organisation taking delivery of SF₆ to undertake the activities described in Articles 3 and 4 of the EU F gas Regulation, in relation to switchgear this is SF₆ recovery. Companies involved in carrying out these activities can only take delivery of containers of F gas if it employs relevant personnel that are appropriately qualified and certificated.

Regulation 11(1) of the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (Statutory Instrument No 261) makes it an offence for any company who carries out an activity referred to in Article 3 or Article 4 of the EU F gas Regulation unless an employee of that company is a qualified person. However, the qualification obligation only applies to those personnel who are actually using the SF₆ to carry out the activities in Article 3 and 4 of the EU F gas Regulation. This does not prevent unqualified personnel from physically taking

delivery of the F gases, providing that they do not carry out the activities in Articles 3 and 4 of the EU F gas Regulation.

6 What is the Status of a Non-UK Personnel Qualification?

The EU F gas Regulation requires that Member States give mutual recognition to certification of suitable qualifications from other EU countries. This will only apply to a “full qualification” that meets the minimum requirements specified in Regulation EC 305/2008. In some EU countries the existing qualifications already meet or go beyond these minimum requirements.

It should be noted that the certificate only relates to qualification to handle switchgear in a manner which does not result in emission of SF₆ to the atmosphere. Companies will still need to check that personnel are suitably qualified to work on electrical systems.

The information in this document is intended as guidance and must not be taken as formal legal advice or as a definitive statement of the law. Ultimately only the courts can decide on legal questions and matters of legal interpretation. If you have continuing concerns you should seek legal advice from your own lawyers.

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