

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000922/24
to the Commission
Pietro Fiocchi (ECR)
(25 March 2024)**

Subject: Ecodesign requirements for electrical switchgear

The revised Fluorinated Gases Regulation, ratified by the Council on 29 January 2024, considers global warming potentials and life cycle CO₂ emissions of electrical switchgear as relevant criteria for both their introduction to the market and implementation.

Yet, utilities, grid operators and Member States' competent authorities dealing with SF₆-free solutions are still uncertain about the applicability of the 'relevant ecodesign requirements' under Directive 2009/125/EC.

Such clarification is key to ensuring technology-neutral tender procedures and, subsequently, the security of supply in the sector.

1. Can the Commission clarify how it intends to implement Article 13(13) of the revised Fluorinated Gases Regulation?
2. Will product-specific legislation under the new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation include electrical switchgear, and what is the time frame for the publication of a relevant act?
3. Does the ecodesign working plan consider electrical switchgear as one of its new product priorities in the light of the relevant provisions?

Submitted: 25.3.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(3 May 2024)**

The requirements related to the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) in switchgear in Regulation (EU) 2024/573 aim to lower the impact on climate change.

Consequently, the derogation in Article 13(13) to use highly warming F-gases in switchgear that are normally prohibited, should only be used if it has been established under ecodesign rules that for certain types of equipment a derogation would result in lower life-cycle emissions than those resulting from equipment using the climate friendly alternatives.

But switchgears are not currently regulated under the Ecodesign Directive and are not included in the current working plan on ecodesign and energy labelling ⁽¹⁾.

Hence, the derogation in Article 13(13) is not directly applicable and a decision has not yet been taken if it should be implemented under ecodesign rules.

Moreover, the derogation in Article 13(13) only has an impact on the level of emissions and is not having any impact on the security of supply.

Concerning the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation the draft legal text envisages that the first working plan be published nine months after the entry into force.

It will be based on priority products and criteria for prioritisation included in the legal text, and on resources available. Ecodesign measures are prepared through in-depth study and wide consultation process, typically requiring more than two years before the adoption process takes place.

Considering also the time needed by economic operators to adapt, any ecodesign rule on the life-cycle emissions of switchgears would take at the minimum four years before entering into force after starting work.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/news/ecodesign-and-energy-labelling-working-plan-2022-2024-2022-04-06_en