

EN

E-002924/2025

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.8.2025)

As announced in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and Energy Labelling Working Plan for electrical switchgear, the Commission will monitor closely the developments under Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases¹ before considering setting eco-design requirements. If it were decided to establish eco-design carbon footprint requirements for such products, it would imply that a method for calculating life cycle emissions would be established².

Switchgear at voltage levels for which the restriction starting dates are still several years away, can still be ordered with sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) if the putting into operation occurs before those dates. Conversely, for switchgear where the restrictions apply, the choice of using SF₆ is only available in cases where no alternatives are available. Regulation (EU) 2024/573 includes derogations in case of non-availability of equipment or if there is low competition in that market. These derogations are linked to the outcome of the tendering process. If switchgear compliant with the general restrictions for the specific use is not available, switchgear using an insulation or breaking medium with a global warming potential (GWP) lower than 1000 is allowed, that is to say fluoronitrile mixtures. The transmission system operators may only put into operation equipment with SF₆ where it is proven that such equipment using fluoronitrile is not available for the specific use and location³.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, OJ L, 2024/573, 20.2.2024.

² COM(2025) 187 final eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0187.

³ For more information, see FAQ on new switchgear rules
https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cfe52d31-9203-435d-b043-62f74900fd96_en?filename=policy_f-gases_stakeholders_switchgear_faq_en.pdf.