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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/2485

of 10 November 2026

authorising an exemption pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council, with regards to the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases in certain stationary chillers used for (re)cooling and temperature control for machine tools

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 ([1]), and in particular Article 11(5) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) As from 1 January 2027, point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 prohibits the placing on the market of chillers with a rated capacity of up to and including 12 kW that contain fluorinated greenhouse gases with a global warming potential ('GWP') of 150 or more, or whose functioning relies upon those gases, except if required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation.

(2) Pursuant to Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/573, on 8 July 2026, the German competent authority submitted to the Commission a request to authorise an exemption ('the exemption request') allowing the placing on the Union market of certain stationary chillers used for (re)cooling and temperature control for machine tools, which placing on the market is to be prohibited as from 1 January 2027 pursuant to point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573.

(3) Machining is a manufacturing process where a final shape or part is created using the controlled removal of material by machine tools. Machine tools are stationary machines used for material processing across numerous industrial sectors, including mechanical engineering, automotive, aerospace, medical technology and electronics. Such machine tools are used for the machining of various materials, such as metals, plastics, wood, and composite materials. The stationary chillers covered by the exemption request are integrated components of machine tools, used for dissipating heat and to maintain the temperature stability necessary for high-precision manufacturing. As modern machine tools generate heat from machining processes, reliable cooling is essential to ensure performance, precision and operational stability.

(4) According to the exemption request, despite sustained investment and progress in research and development of alternatives, stationary chillers used for such machine tool applications that would not be subject to the prohibition set out in point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 are not yet commercially available in sufficient numbers to meet demand across the diverse range of machine tool applications in the Union market. Therefore, further time is necessary in order to ensure that refrigerants with a GWP value below 150 become available commercially.

(5) The exemption request further indicates that in many cases, such stationary chillers are specifically designed, integrated and qualified for the individual machine tool, requiring extensive redesign, testing and requalification of the complete system upon replacement. Therefore, in the absence of an exemption, manufacturers would face significant supply constraints across a diverse range of machine tool applications.

(6) The Commission has assessed the exemption request and considers that the conditions set out in Article 11(5), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 are fulfilled. In particular, suitable alternatives are not yet available in sufficient numbers for the equipment concerned.

([1]) OJ L, 2024/573, 20.2.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/573/oj.

(7) In view of the substantiated exemption request and the exceptional circumstances, the Commission considers that it is appropriate to exempt the equipment concerned for a limited period of time to ensure continuity of industrial operations while allowing sufficient time for the development and deployment of compliant alternatives. A period of four years is justified and proportionate to achieve those objectives.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on fluorinated greenhouse gases established by Article 34(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/573,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

By way of derogation from point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573, the placing on the market of stationary chillers with a rated capacity of up to and including 12 kW, which contain fluorinated greenhouse gases with a global warming potential of 150 or higher, or which functioning relies upon those gases, and which are specifically designed and integrated in machine tools used in material processing, for the purpose of (re)cooling and temperature control, is hereby authorised, provided that they are labelled in accordance with Article 12(2) of that Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2030.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 November 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN