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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/2486

of 10 November 2026

authorising an exemption pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council, with regard to the placing on the market of fluorinated greenhouse gases in certain types of indoor-installed monoblock heat pumps

(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 8(d) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 prohibits the placing on the market of stationary monoblock and other self-contained heat pumps of the rated capacity of more than 12 kW but not exceeding 50 kW, that contain fluorinated greenhouse gases with a global warming potential (GWP) of 150 or more, except if required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation. As from the same date, point 9(b) of Annex IV to that Regulation prohibits the placing on the market of split air-to-water systems, of the rated capacity up to and including 12 kW that contain, or whose functioning relies upon, fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of 150 or more, except if required to meet safety requirements at the site of operation.

(2) Pursuant to Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/573, on 6 July 2026, the German competent authorities submitted to the Commission a request for the authorisation of an exemption (the exemption request) allowing the placing on the Union market of (i) certain monoblock and self-contained heat pumps; and (ii) certain split air-to-water systems, whose placing on the market is to be prohibited under points 8(d) and 9(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573, respectively, as from 1 January 2027.

(3) The equipment concerned by the exemption request are (i) indoor-installed monoblock brine-to-water and water-to-water heat pumps with a maximum rated capacity of more than 20 kW but not exceeding 50 kW; and (ii) certain indoor-installed air-to-water monoblock heat pump systems with double duct (outdoor air supply and exhaust), which for the purpose of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 are considered to be split systems, with a rated capacity of up to and including 12 kW. The first category is used, in particular, in larger single or multi-family houses, in larger residential buildings, light commercial applications, local heat networks, waste heat recovery, renovation projects or where outdoor air-source equipment is technically or legally constrained. The second category is intended for indoor installation in buildings where the entire refrigeration circuit is fully located inside the building, and the exchange of outdoor air is achieved through dedicated double ducting and where building-specific installation constraints increase installation complexity.

(4) According to the exemption request, indoor installed brine-to-water and water-to-water heat pumps in the 20–50 kW range constitute a technically demanding and relatively limited market segment. While alternatives using refrigerants with a GWP below 150 are emerging in smaller capacity ranges, the request indicates that market-ready indoor solutions in the 20–50 kW range are not yet available in sufficient variety to cover the relevant applications by 1 January 2027. The exemption request also indicates that the indoor installed air-to-water monoblock heat pump systems with ducted outdoor air supply and exhaust require specific integration into the building structure, including two-duct routing, acoustic management and ventilation design. Additionally, the transition to refrigerants with a GWP below 150 requires the development of additional safety concepts, as well as corresponding validation activities and, where appropriate, leak detection systems before compliant equipment can be placed on the market.

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

(5) The exemption request further indicates that these systems are a niche within the heat pump market, and that the transition to alternative technologies requires additional time for the development and validation of compliant alternative technologies. In the absence of an exemption, manufacturers would have to make a double conversion in parallel that would result in costs that are considered to be disproportionate.

(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 variety for the equipment and applications concerned.

(7) Under these exceptional circumstances, the Commission considers that it is appropriate to grant a time-limited exemption for the concerned equipment to ensure continuity of industrial operations while allowing sufficient time for the development and deployment of compliant alternatives. A period of one year is justified and proportionate to achieving 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

1. By way of derogation from points 8(d) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573, the placing on the market of monoblock brine-to-water and water-to-water heat pumps with a maximum rated capacity of more than 20 kW but not exceeding 50 kW intended for indoor installation, containing fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of 150 or more, is hereby authorised, provided that they are labelled pursuant to Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/573.

2. By way of derogation from point 9(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573, the placing on the market of air-to-water monoblock heat-pump systems with double ducted outdoor air supply intended for indoor installation, with a rated capacity of up to and including 12 kW, containing, or whose functioning relies upon, fluorinated greenhouse gases with a GWP of 150 or more, is hereby authorised, provided that they are labelled pursuant to Article 12(2) of of Regulation (EU) 2024/573.

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 2027.

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