Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2026/2491

11.11.2026

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/2491

**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 use of fluorinated greenhouse gases in certain medical stationary chillers**

**(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 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 26 June 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 medical stationary chillers, whose placing on the market is to be prohibited under point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 as from 1 January 2027.

(3) The medical chillers covered by the exemption request are used for precise thermoregulation of heat-transfer fluids during critical care and life-supporting medical procedures such as open-heart surgeries. As they ensure that the patient's blood is safely warmed and cooled, they are vital for reducing adverse events related to cardiovascular surgical procedures.

(4) According to the exemption request, medical chillers that would not fall under the placing on the market prohibition set out in point 7(b) of Annex IV are not available in the Union market. Despite ongoing research and development efforts, alternatives using refrigerants with a GWP below 150 are not yet sufficiently mature to be applied. In order to ensure that alternatives are going to be used safely and the transition does not result in avoidable costs, further time is needed to facilitate the switch to refrigerants with a GWP value below 150.

(5) The Commission has assessed the exemption request and considers that the conditions set out in points (a) and (b) of Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/573 are fulfilled. In particular, no suitable alternatives are available in the Union market and the absence of an exemption would lead to disproportionate costs.

(6) The Commission also considers that under such exceptional circumstances it is appropriate to grant a time-limited exemption to avoid market disruption in the supply of such essential equipment while allowing sufficient time for the development and deployment of suitable alternatives. The Commission considers that a period of two years for the equipment listed in point 7(b) of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 is appropriate and proportionate to achieve those objectives.

(7) 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,

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

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 GWP of 150 or more, or whose functioning relies upon those gases, and which are used for precise thermoregulation of heat-transfer fluids during critical care and life-supporting medical procedures, is hereby authorised, provided that they are labelled pursuant to 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 2028.

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