



MEETING NOTES
EGEA Working Group 9 – Mobile Air-Conditioning Systems

Wednesday, 4th April 2012, 10h30-17h00
EGEA Offices (c/o FIGIEFA)
Boulevard de la Woluwe, 42
BE – 1200 Brussels

Participants:

AICA/ Brain Bee spa	Andrea Cantadori
AICA/ Ecotechnics spa	Giovanni Ottantini
AICA/ SPX Italy	Alessandro Carluccio
ASA/ Dometic Waeco International	Guido Sasse
ASA/ Hella	Pete Bradley
ASA/ Hella	Mark Degenhardt
GEA/ Autocal	Guy Foster
FMA/TAE	Luc Thijs
STM/ ZUH Sosnowski	Michal Kotarak
<hr/>	
EGEA Secretariat	Neil Pattemore
EGEA Secretariat	Eléonore van Haute

1. Opening and welcome

On behalf of the EGEA Secretariat, Neil Pattemore welcomed all participants and thanked them particularly for their support for this second Working Group 9 on MAC.

2. Approval of the minutes of the first Working Group 9 meeting held on 6th December 2011 in Brussels

Andrea Cantadori asked for further technical clarification on item 10 but Neil Pattemore answered that this item will be re-discussed and more information will be given during this meeting under points 3 & 4 of this agenda.

With no further remarks, the minutes of the 6th December 2011 were approved subject to the point raised by Andrea Cantadori.

3. Evaluate the VDA specification to the new EGEA specification

- It was decided to deal with point 3 at the same time with point 4 and to work directly on the VDA/EGEA specification comparison document (please see attachment).
- Neil Pattermore reminded the group that the EGEA specification is based on the VDA specification which will be used as a benchmark and not a full standard.
- Discussion on how to handle in the future THE 'EGEA label'. Eléonore van Haute asked for WG9 members advice as there is no 'police' foreseen to control and monitor the proper compliance with THE 'EGEA label'.

Pete Bradley answered that a 'Publicly Available Specification' (PAS) under ISO would be a more suitable 'format' for our EGEA specification as this format is faster and less administrative burdensome and time consuming than a standard. Furthermore, going into that direction would avoid any further discussion on how to handle the 'EGEA label'. The PAS can evolve into a full standard in the future, should that be required.

Action:

- The EGEA secretariat to check the legal and practical implications for creating a 'PAS' under ISO before deciding into that direction.

4. Review and finalise the EGEA 1234YF specification

- The members went through the VDA/EGEA Specification comparison document until point 6.15 (please see attached document).
- Discussion on point '5. Safety concept and risk assessment' whether provisions on the use of a gas identifier should be added as this could have some legal implications.

Decision/Action:

- It was decided that the EGEA secretariat to investigate further whether there could be any legal implications when making reference to the use of a gas identifier ('duty of care' necessitating an identifier).
- Once this issue is counterchecked, WG9 members would re-discuss whether provisions should be included in the EGEA specification.

5. Review additional 1234YF equipment/options to be covered by WG9 and prioritise (check applicable regulation/standards)

- Discussion whether strong reference to the use of a gas identifier should be made into the EGEA specification. This would have serious cost consequences for some of our members. Therefore, it was decided to re-discuss that at the next WG9 meeting.

6. Operator and service engineer qualifications/training

- Neil Pattermore informed the members that some of them might face a 'mutual recognition' issue with the FGas training in EU Member States as in some countries, the training certificate done in one country is not recognised in another EU country (e.g Ireland).
- Discussion whether it would be necessary to extend the FGas training to R1234yf. Would R134a certified persons be obliged to take a new training for the R1234yf?

Action: EGEA to investigate and report at the next meeting.

7. Election of WG9 Chairman

- Neil Pattemore explained that that after the expiry of the deadline for candidates, the Secretariat received in total three candidatures: Mr. Pete Bradley (ASA/Hella) and Mr. Andrea Cantadori (AICA/Brain Bee) and Mr. Alessandro Carluccio (AICA/SPX).

He reminded that according to the EGEA Rules, each Working Group shall normally consist of a maximum of two official delegates from each member association who would also cast the votes in the event of a formal vote for the election of a Chairman. He then asked the members to proceed to the vote for one of these three candidates.

Decision:

- After two rounds of voting, the members elected Pete Bradley and Alessandro Carluccio. However after further discussion, it was mutually agreed that Pete Bradley would be the new WG9 Chairman and Alessandro Carluccio would be the WG9 co-Chair.

8. Workplan and schedule for future meetings

- **Any other business**

- **R134a Contamination:**

- Following discussion, it appears that no case of R134a contamination has been reported to the authorities up to now

- **Availability of R1234yf:**

- Neil Pattemore informed the members that the European Commission is currently conducting an investigation regarding the anti-competitive situation with the supply of the gas by Honeywell-DuPont.
- The members discussed the fact that R1234yf is not available on the market and that there is a one year delay for its supply but this does not prevent vehicle manufacturers to sell new cars equipped with new refrigerant, but it is rumoured that the EC has granted VMs a special dispensation to continue to use R134a.

Decision:

After thorough discussion, it was decided to contact the European Commission to get guidance and clarification on the fact that due to the one-year delay of refrigerant's availability, many actors on the market won't be able to comply with new gas obligations.

- **Next meeting**

- It was decided to fix the next WG9 meeting at the end of May 2012 in order to continue working actively on the drafting of the EGEA specification.
- As some members are coming the day before of the meeting, it was suggested that the Secretariat would make a block-booking hotel reservation for EGEA WG9 members.

9. Thank you and closure

Attachments:

- WG9 Presentation, N. Pattemore, EGEA Secretariat
- VDA/EGEA Specification Comparison Document