BRA/FETA Review of consultation for BS EN 378 – 16th July 2025

Meeting notes

Attendees: Over 60 members joined the meeting chaired by Chris Yates, FETA and the prEN 378 overview meeting was produced and delivered by Steve Benton, Cool Concerns.

Meeting Purpose

To provide an overview and gather feedback on the draft revision of prEN 378 refrigeration standard.

Key Takeaways

- Major changes to prEN 378 include new intrinsic/extrinsic design approaches, revised charge (refrigerant quantity safety limit) calculations, with increased flexibility for flammable refrigerants
- The standard aims to improve safety while allowing more design options, especially for A2L/A3 refrigerants
- Industry feedback on the draft is critical; comments due by August 26th via BSI portal
- Some concerns raised about readability/accessibility of draft on BSI portal

Topics

Overview of Standards Revision Process

- 10+ year process to revise EN 378, delayed partly by COVID
- Now at public inquiry/commenting stage, open until August 26th
- RHE/18 national committee will review comments Sept 4th and submit UK position
- Final vote expected Sept 2026, publication early 2027
- Challenging to access draft - only available on BSI online portal (not downloadable or printable

Key Changes in Part 1

- New intrinsic & extrinsic design approaches
- Revised charge calculations using "releasable quantity" concept
- Increased charge limits for flammable refrigerants in many cases
- New F-factor and H-factor for refrigerant safety limit calculations
- More flexibility but also more complexity in some areas

Changes to Other Parts

- Part 2: Minor changes, to ensure continued PED alignment
- Part 3: Changes to align with Part 1 revisions
- Part 4: Replaced by BS EN ISO 5149-4

- New Part 5: Refrigerant properties (formerly Part 1 Annex E)

Safety Considerations

- More emphasis on designer responsibility and risk assessment
- Increased focus on ventilation, gas detection, and mitigation measures
- New requirements for below-ground installations
- Revised machine room requirements

Industry Implications

- More design flexibility, especially for A2L/A3 refrigerants
- Increased complexity requires more upfront design work
- Potential challenges in transitioning to new approaches
- Need for updated guidance/training on applying new standard

Next Steps

- Industry to submit comments on draft via BSI portal by August 26th
- Trade associations (FETA, BRA, IOR) to gather member feedback and develop positions
- RHE/18 to review all comments and determine UK position on Sept 4th
- Consider developing industry guidance on applying new standard once finalized
- Raise concerns about draft accessibility to BSI/standards bodies

Action Items

- **Email meeting participants with link to BSI comment portal + reminder of Aug 6 deadline for public comments** – **Action Martyn Cooper/Chris Yates**
- **Draft email to BSI/standards bodies re difficulties accessing/reviewing draft standard online; coordinate wording with Steve Benton** - **Action Chris Yates**
- **Create+distribute questionnaire to gauge member feedback on draft EN 378 standard; aim to send this week** - **Action Chris Yates**
- **Draft guidance for members on submitting individual company responses + feeding major issues to FETA for potential association position** - **Action Martyn Cooper**
- **Prepare BRA position on draft EN 378 to submit via Mike Duggan for RHE18 meeting on Sep 4** - **Action Chris Yates**