



## Cool Up Programme and the UNDP Provide Natural Refrigerants Training to Technicians in Turkey

**Training technicians helps to manage natural refrigerants safely, addressing gaps in technical expertise and supporting compliance with evolving regulations.**

Saroj Thapa   December 10, 2024   Europe, Training



The Cool Up Programme, part of the German government's International Climate Initiative, and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) [recently hosted](#) a natural refrigerants training event for technicians in Ankara, Turkey.

**The content:** The training was both practical and theoretical in nature, and the topics covered included the features, applications, safety measures and service procedures of natural refrigerant systems.

- Cool Up told NaturalRefrigerants.com that the said the trainings, which were also offered to manufacturers, focused on refrigeration and cooling equipment using CO<sub>2</sub> (R744) and "flammable natural refrigerant alternatives."
- Cool Up specified that "special attention" was given to national regulations, risk mitigation, including "addressing potential risks such as ignition sources and refrigerant leakage," and best practices in technical services.

**The need for training:** METRO, an international food wholesaler, highlighted the need for natural refrigerants training in Turkey during a March 2024 [interview with NaturalRefrigerants.com](#).

- Olaf Schulze, Director of Energy Management and Real Estate Sustainability at METRO Properties, said a shortage of trained technicians has prevented the company from installing CO<sub>2</sub>(R744) refrigeration systems at its stores in the country.
- "Our local team did not find an installer who is able to install CO<sub>2</sub> technology or offer solid maintenance and repair [M&R]," said Schulze, who noted that the company did plan to install plug-in R290 freezers in its Turkey stores.
- Cool Up said seven trainings have been held in Turkey in 2024.

**Turkey in transition:** Turkey ratified the Kigali Amendment [in 2021](#), and in October the Turkish Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change implemented [a new f-gas regulation](#) it said "has been prepared within the framework of harmonization with the European Union legislation."

- The new regulation addresses labeling, leakage control and mandatory training for personnel managing fluorinated gases but does not make any mention of f-gas bans.

**A global effort:** In addition to Cool Up and the UNDP, many other organizations are hosting natural refrigerant training events for technicians in emerging markets for these systems.

- Commercial refrigeration systems manufacturer [Epta](#) opened a new CO<sub>2</sub> training center in Manila, the Philippines, in October 2024 to serve the APAC region.
- The GIZ, through its Green Cooling Initiative (GCI), conducted a series of R290 training courses [in Vietnam](#) during the summer of 2024.
- [Carrier](#) and the GIZ, a German international development organization, established [the "first-ever"](#) East African transcritical CO<sub>2</sub> training center in October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

*This story has been updated with additional information from the Cool Up Programme.*