

ELSE, [PM2024-21 \(EN\)](#)

Important Update on SF6 Gas Ban in European Union for Medium Voltage Equipment

Dear Customer,

We inform you of significant regulatory changes in the European Union regarding the use of sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) gas in medium voltage electrical equipment*, which may impact your current and future operations.

This communication provides you with key details about the ban, its implications, and how ABB can support you through this transition.

Overview of the SF6 Gas Ban

SF6, a potent greenhouse gas (25,300 times more effective at trapping infrared radiation than an equivalent amount of CO₂), has been widely used for insulation and arc quenching in switchgear and circuit breakers due to its excellent dielectric properties. However, its environmental impact has led to increased regulatory scrutiny.

The transition from SF6 to SF6-free technology in Medium Voltage Circuit Breakers and Switchgears reflects the ABB commitment to advancing a low-carbon society, aligning with the European Union's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the EU Regulation (EU) 2024/573, the use of SF6 will be phased out in different stages, with a complete ban on its use in new medium voltage equipment coming into effect by January 1, 2026, up to 24kV. The regulation also includes measures for the management of existing SF6-containing equipment to ensure safe handling and eventual disposal.

For further details, please refer to the full text of the Regulation available at the provided link.

(*) [Regulation - EU - 2024/573 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Timing and impact on Installed Base

The ban primarily prevents new equipment to be installed within the EU after the January 1st, 2026. However, it is essential to understand that the regulation does not mandate the removal or replacement of existing equipment containing SF6. Therefore, you may continue to operate and maintain your existing assets.

ABB is progressively planning to phase out all Medium Voltage products using SF6 technology in new greenfield applications across global markets.

ABB SpA
Sede Legale / Registered Office
Via Vittor Pisani, 16
20124 Milano - Italy
E-mail: IT-info@abb.com
www.abb.it

Direzione e Uffici Amministrativi
Headquarters and
Accounting Offices
20099 Sesto San Giovanni (MI) - Italy
Via Luciano Lama, 33
Tel. +39 02 2414.1
PEC_abbspa@legalmail.it

Capitale Sociale / Share Capital:
€ 110.000.000 i.v. / fully paid up
Partita IVA / VAT: IT 11988960156
Codice Fiscale / Fiscal Code:
00736410150
Registro delle Imprese di Milano /
Official Company Book: 00736410150
R.E.A. Milano: 1513225

In brownfield applications (i.e. already existing installations), ABB will continue to supply SF6 circuit breakers and cubicles if available, based on life cycle status and in compliance with EU regulations.

ABB will continue to support the installed base of SF6 equipment in accordance with ABB's Life Cycle Management (LCM) policy [Legacy equipment - Electrification Service | ABB](#). This ongoing support will include adherence to ABB's guidelines and best practices throughout the various stages of the product's life cycle. Additionally, dedicated communications will be provided to inform stakeholders of any upcoming changes or transitions in the life cycle status, ensuring transparency and alignment with ABB's long-term sustainability objectives.

Moreover, ABB can provide service agreements fine-tuned on the specific customer's installed base until the end of the life of the equipment, including the end-of-life services – Take back program**.

(**) Only in selected countries, get in contact with your local ABB service organization for further information.

Production and support of SF6 equipment

The EU Regulation (EU) 2024/573 permits the production of SF6 equipment within the EU for export outside the EU and allows its installation in the EU if SF6-free technology is not available for a specific application. Additionally, the regulation permits the repair, extension, maintenance, and reuse of SF6-equipped medium voltage products.

Given this, there are currently no plans to alter our existing production setup. However, any future decision to discontinue certain productions – **moving the product to the Limited or Obsolete phases** - will be guided by industrial considerations such as low demand, high costs, or the unavailability of essential materials and components, particularly when alternative solutions in a vacuum are available.

The service support of SF6 product will be always guaranteed according to ABB Life Cycle Management rules.

Price increases and supply chain considerations

ABB is expecting a possible rise in prices in the next years due to the development and scaling of SF6-free products and potential supply chain disruptions that will lead to phase-out of some types of SF6 products/components

To mitigate these impacts, we recommend our customers to consider the following actions:

1. **Stock Up on essential equipment:** Given the uncertainty in the market, we suggest that you consider increasing your inventory of SF6-based equipment. This will help ensure continuity in your operations during the transition period. ABB team could help you to define the right quantity based on your medium- to long-term strategy of modernization of your installed base.
2. **Ask advice to ABB:** ABB will consistently inform our customers about life cycle changes for specific products, including any last-buy opportunities. To ensure you don't miss out on



this crucial information, we encourage you to share details of your installed base and future modernization requirements based on your medium- to long-term strategy.

3. **Plan for future purchases:** Evaluate your medium voltage equipment needs and begin planning for the shift to vacuum alternatives. ABB team is ready to support you with our experience and advice in selecting and integrating vacuum technology into your system.

ABB is committed to sustainability and innovation, having undertaken a comprehensive initiative to streamline our retrofit solutions utilizing SF6 free products to complete our modernization portfolio towards SF6 installations, ensuring the highest standards of safety, reliability, and environmental responsibility.

As a result, it is essential for us to understand your medium- to long-term modernization plans to properly prioritize our development efforts.

Sharing these plans will enable us to better address your needs and ensure we can support you effectively with the right decision time.

Our commitment to supporting you

We are dedicated to supporting you throughout the entire life cycle of your installed base and are committed to collaboratively planning the transition to vacuum technology. Our goal is to ensure that this shift has minimal impact on your operational requirements.

Our team of experts is available to provide you the best advice to keep running your installed based including end-of-life service – take back program - for your outdated SF6 equipment.

SF6 can be regenerated rather than burned, so, being a product with a high environmental impact, it's crucial to properly manage its end-of-life phase.

Conclusion

We recognize that this transition may present challenges, and we are here to help you navigate this transition. The SF6 ban, and transition to SF6-free and vacuum technologies, represents an important step towards a more sustainable future, and we are committed to providing you with the resources and support needed to ensure the continuity of service you need in your system.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We remain fully committed to providing you with expert guidance tailored to your needs, ensuring the best possible outcomes for your business.



Yours Sincerely,

Sebastiano Masper
Local Service Product Marketing Manager
ELSE business line
ABB S.p.A.

Davide Montorfano
Global Product Manager
ELSE Modernization
ABB S.p.A.

ABB SpA
Sede Legale / Registered Office
Via Vittor Pisani, 16
20124 Milano - Italy
E-mail: IT-info@abb.com
www.abb.it

Direzione e Uffici Amministrativi
Headquarters and
Accounting Offices
20099 Sesto San Giovanni (MI) - Italy
Via Luciano Lama, 33
Tel. +39 02 2414.1
PEC abbspa@legalmail.it

Capitale Sociale / Share Capital:
€ 110.000.000 i.v. / fully paid up
Partita IVA / VAT: IT 11988960156
Codice Fiscale / Fiscal Code:
00736410150
Registro delle Imprese di Milano /
Official Company Book: 00736410150
R.E.A. Milano: 1513225