

# Possible End of Road for the SF<sub>6</sub> High Voltage (HV) Switchgear Market

The following infographic provides a background on why this recent proposal is considering more strict regulations on SF<sub>6</sub> equipment sales, with proposed prohibition dates. HV, here, is considered as a voltage level greater than 52kV.

## Push Towards a Greener Grid

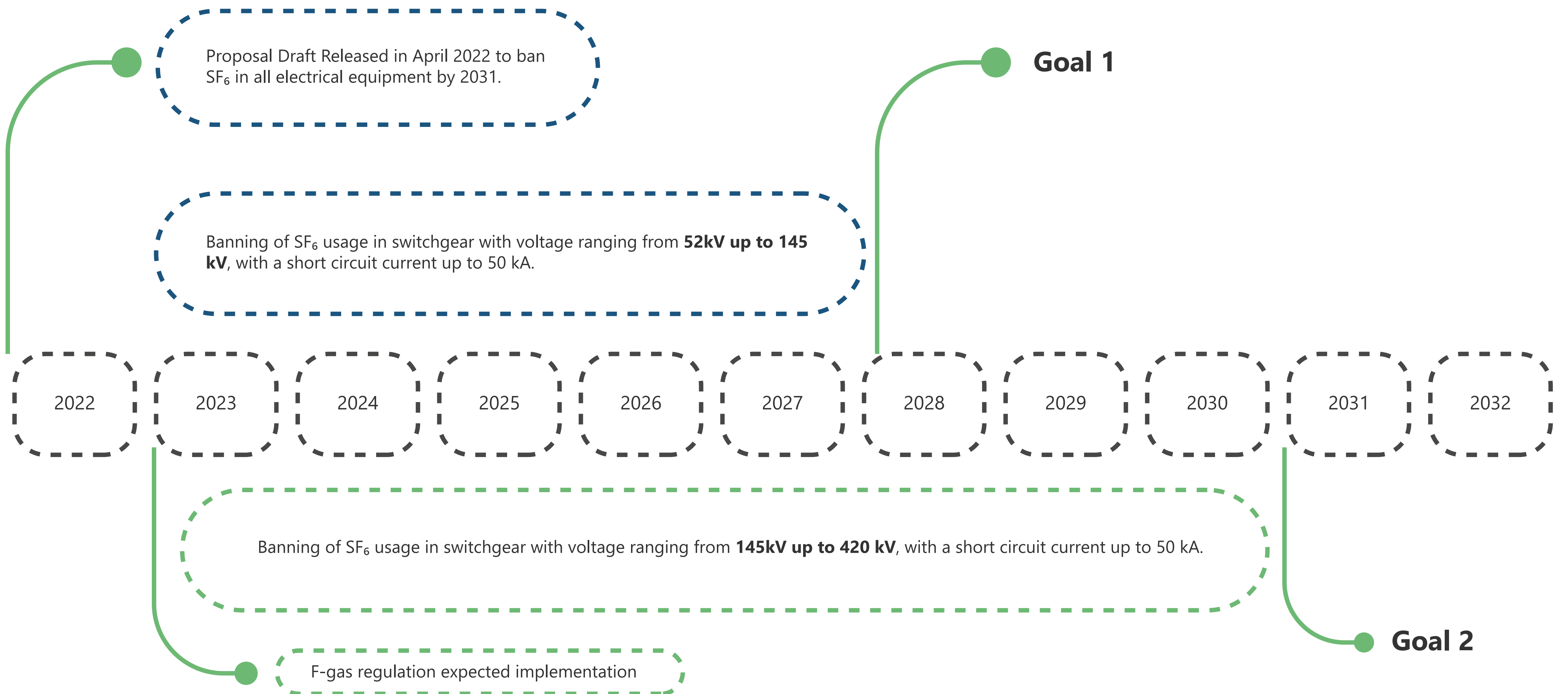
Under the European Green Deal, there is a push to reduce GHG emissions by 55% by 2030; to bolster this target, the EU adopted the "Fit for 55 package" in July 2021. This introduced a set of interconnected proposals covering climate, land use, energy, transport, and taxation to bring them into line with the targets agreed upon in the European Climate Law.

SF<sub>6</sub> gas, which has a global warming potential roughly 25,200 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>, is still the most widely used insulating gas for switchgear applications.

As the world is moving towards cleaner and more sustainable technological solutions, switchgear manufacturers are increasingly introducing SF<sub>6</sub>-free switchgear solutions. Although SF<sub>6</sub>-free switchgear is still a nascent technology, it is expected to pick up pace with the growing concern for the environment and as regulations regarding the use of fluorinated gases in the electrical industry are revised globally.

## Prohibition Deadline for HV GIS Switchgears

These deadlines are in accordance with the Fit for 55 Package to reduce emissions.



It is important to note that the need for SF<sub>6</sub> can not be fully eradicated from the market. It will still be needed beyond 2050 for the maintenance, repair, and extension of existing equipment.