

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

Refrigerant Management: Are You Leaking Money?

What do I do if I have a leak?

A leak needs to be repaired within 14 days by a U.S. EPA certified technician.

How do I tell if I have a leak?

If refrigerant has to be added, it is likely that the refrigeration system is leaking. Also, if a leak inspection shows the presence of refrigerant vapors, you may also have a leak.



The temperature of my refrigeration system has risen above my set point, do I have a leak?

Yes, it is very likely; if you have to call in a technician who then has to add refrigerant to your system, you probably have a leak.

What's the problem with having leaking refrigeration equipment?

- Refrigerants are expensive; take away from profits; and reduce your equipment efficiency
- Refrigerants are greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change
- Preventing and stopping leaks are good for your pocket book and for the environment

How frequently do I have to leak inspect?

- At least annually and keep records of each leak inspection (e.g. date, method, results)
- Medium facilities (200-1,999 lb. systems) have to conduct leak inspections quarterly;
- Large facilities (2000 lb. and greater systems) must have an automatic leak detection device on all indoor equipment and conduct quarterly leak inspections on all outdoor equipment;

Do I have to be a U.S. EPA certified technician to conduct a leak inspection?

No, you don't have to be U.S. EPA certified but should be familiar with your refrigeration equipment and use proper leak inspection methods such as using a handheld leak detection device (refrigerant sniffer), observing oil residue or using soap bubbles.

Can I buy a handheld calibrated leak detection device?

A handheld calibrated leak detection device can be purchased for \$200-\$500. Make sure it detects the refrigerants you have in your refrigeration system.

How do I conduct a leak inspection?

You can conduct a leak inspection by:

- Using a hand-held calibrated refrigerant leak detection device;
- Conducting a bubble test; or
- Observing oil residue on the system.

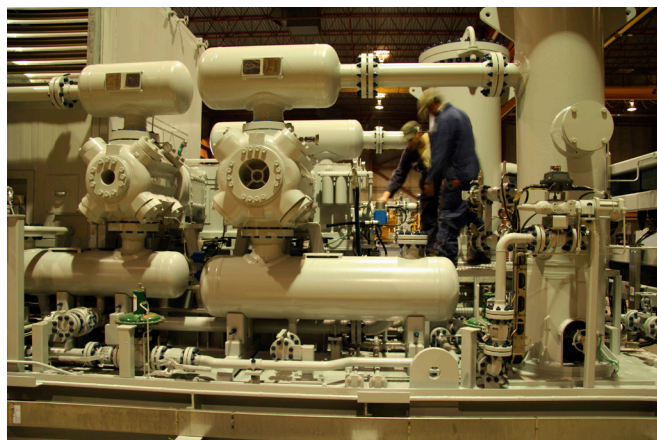
Do I have to be a U.S. EPA certified technician in order to repair a leak?

Yes, the person doing the leak repair must be U.S. EPA-certified and have contractor's license.

What do I do if I can't repair a leak within 14 days?

In specific circumstances more than 14 days are allowed to complete the repairs. Keep written records to document the conditions to justify an allowance of more than 14 days to complete the repairs.

- 45 days are allowed for the completion of the repair if one or more of the conditions apply:
 - A certified technician is not available.
 - The parts necessary to repair the leak are unavailable (documentation from the vendor must be retained)
 - The leak repair requires an industrial process shutdown that results in ceasing production
- 120 days are allowed for the completion of the repair if all of the following conditions apply:
 - The facility is subject to Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting requirements.
 - The refrigeration system is an industrial process refrigeration appliance.
 - The leak repair requires an industrial process shutdown that results in a process temporarily ceasing to manufacture the intermediate or final product.
- An indefinite time period is allowed to complete the repair if the refrigerant is evacuated and the system is mothballed.



Technicians checking a refrigerant system for leaks.

How do I tell if the leak has been repaired?

An initial verification test is performed by an US EPA certified technician and is an initial indicator whether the repair has fixed the leak. If the system or component was not evacuated the initial verification test is conducted as soon as practicable after the repair has been made. The system is usually pressurized, but has not attained normal operating conditions.

A follow-up verification test is conducted after the system or component has been put back in operation and has attained normal operating conditions. Verification tests are required by the refrigerant regulation: www.arb.ca.gov/rmp/rmprule.htm

To register your equipment log in at: www.arb.ca.gov/rmp-r3

Call the RMP Hotline if you have any questions: 916-324-2517

For more information

For further information, please visit www.arb.ca.gov/rmp, email rmp@arb.ca.gov or call the RMP Hotline at (916) 324-2517.

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