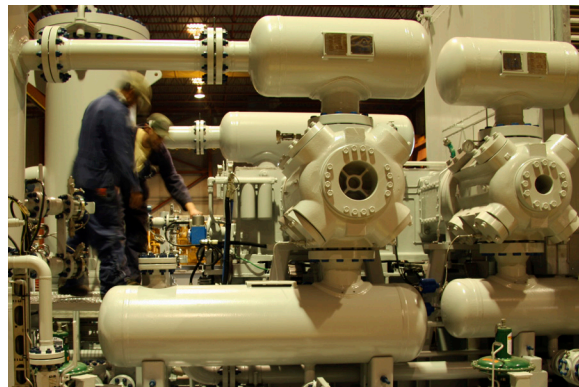


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Refrigerant Management Program • Service Version*Required service practices for technicians and contractors***What is the Refrigerant Management Program?**

The Refrigerant Management Program was adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and took effect on January 1, 2011. It requires specific best management practices to reduce emissions of refrigerant from non-residential refrigeration systems. The regulation includes provisions similar to current federal and local regulations for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and extends requirements to ODS refrigerant substitutes including high-global warming potential (high-GWP) refrigerants.

**What is an affected facility required to do?**

- Keep records onsite of inspections, repairs, and high-GWP refrigerants purchased and shipped. (Starting January 1, 2011)
- Repair leaks within 14 days of detection (Starting January 1, 2011)
- Register and report to ARB (Starting March 1, 2012, for large facilities; 2014 and 2016 for smaller facilities)

Additional requirements may apply. Please visit ARB's website for more details.

What equipment or appliances are subject to the rule?

It depends on if you are a facility owner or a service contractor/technician. Required service practices (section 95390) of the rule apply to any person performing any installation, maintenance, service, repair, or disposal of a stationary appliance. "Appliance," as defined in the rule, means any device which contains and uses a high-GWP refrigerant, including any air conditioner, refrigerator, chiller, freezer, or refrigeration system.

Facility owners or operators are subject to the rule if all of the following apply:

- it is a non-residential facility,
- if the single largest refrigeration system in the facility has a refrigerant charge of > 50 pounds,
- if the system uses a high-GWP refrigerant.

Facilities that commonly use applicable refrigeration systems include but are not limited to supermarkets, cold storage warehouses, food processing plants, and industries with process cooling operations. Facilities that have only air conditioning systems that are used exclusively for comfort cooling are not subject to the regulation.

What refrigerants are subject to the rule?

High-GWP refrigerants include all commonly used chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with a global warming potential of 150 and above. All ozone-depleting refrigerants regulated under Federal Rule 608 are also subject to the rule. Refrigerants not covered under the new California rule include ammonia, carbon dioxide and HFC-152a, which has a GWP less than 150 and is also non-ozone-depleting.

If a facility uses a chiller with more than 50 pounds of high-GWP refrigerant for both air conditioning and process cooling, are they subject to the rule?

Yes. This facility will fall into the category of "Other refrigeration" and will be subject to the rule. "Other refrigeration" means any stationary, non-residential appliance that is used for an application other than industrial process refrigeration, commercial refrigeration, or air-conditioning, or is used for two or more applications including industrial process refrigeration, commercial refrigeration, or air-conditioning.

How do I determine the size category of a facility's system?

Facilities with applicable refrigeration systems are categorized as:

- **Small:** refrigeration systems using more than 50 pounds, but less than 200 pounds, of a high-GWP refrigerant.
- **Medium:** refrigeration systems using 200 pounds or more, but less than 2,000 pounds, of a high-GWP refrigerant.
- **Large:** refrigeration systems using 2,000 pounds or more of a high-GWP refrigerant.

Facilities with multiple refrigeration systems at the same site are categorized only by the single, largest system on site.

When are leak inspections required?

Facility owner or operators are required to conduct periodic leak inspections depending on the size of the refrigeration systems. Beginning 2011, monthly inspections for large systems (continuous monitoring is required beginning 2012), quarterly inspections for medium systems, and annual inspections for small systems are required. Adding refrigerant to a system, other than for seasonal adjustments and/or detection of visible oil residue, would also require a leak inspection be conducted. Large systems that do not operate year round or have major components outside the building are only subject to quarterly inspections.

Is there a specific method of leak detection required by the new rule?

For large systems intended to operate year round, automatic leak detectors must be installed by January 1, 2012, and annually calibrated. Portable leak detectors, bubble tests or other approved methods can be used for medium and small systems. Portable devices should be calibrated to ensure proper function and sensitivity for leak detection.

When should a leak be repaired?

The new statewide rule is more stringent than the Federal rule (section 608) and requires any amount of refrigerant leak from an affected refrigeration system to be repaired within 14 days of detection. Additional time may be allowed in certain conditions. Service technicians and contractors should not add refrigerant to any appliance with a known leak (regardless of size and including air conditioning systems).

Who can repair leaks?

Repairs can only be made by U.S. EPA certified technicians who hold, or are employed by a contractor who holds, an active California contractors license in the C38 (Refrigeration) or C20 (HVAC) classifications.

What should I do with empty refrigerant cylinders?

Non-refillable cylinders must be evacuated to a vacuum of 15 inches of mercury (relative to standard atmospheric pressure of 29.9 inches of mercury) before recycling or disposal.

For More Information

Please visit the ARB website at www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reftrack/reftrack.htm, email reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov or call (916) 324-2517. You can also sign up for the listserv for news and updates at www.arb.ca.gov/listser_ind.php?listname=reftrack.

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