

## OVERVIEW OF

# Stopping Refrigerant Leaks

*California requirements for refrigerant management*

Beginning January 1, 2011, owners and operators of refrigeration systems that use more than 50 pounds of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants must comply with new Air Resources Board regulations designed to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. The new rules build on existing local and federal regulations and are expected to benefit businesses through cost savings due to reduced refrigerant consumption.

High-GWP refrigerants include chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, and hydrofluorocarbons. These compounds can be thousands of times more capable than carbon dioxide at trapping heat from the sun. Refrigeration systems that use ammonia, carbon dioxide or other non-high GWP refrigerants are not subject to the rule.

**Who must comply?**

Any business with a stationary, non-residential refrigeration system using more than 50 pounds of high-GWP refrigerants must comply. Please check with your service technician first to determine the amount of refrigerant your system uses. Most small businesses, such as bars, restaurants, liquor stores, and gas stations do not have these size refrigeration systems. Facilities that typically have these size systems that would be subject to the rule include:

- Supermarkets and large grocery stores;
- Food and beverage processors;
- Cold-storage warehouses; and,
- Those using industrial-process cooling.

The regulation also affects any person who installs, services, or disposes any appliance using a high-GWP refrigerant or sells, distributes and/or reclaims high-GWP refrigerants.

**Implementation timeframes**

Beginning January 1, 2011, the following are required (visit the website below for detailed rule requirements):

- Facility owners and operators requirements such as:
  - Conduct leak detection and monitoring and recordkeeping;
- Servicing - Follow Required Service Practices such as:
  - Technicians must be U.S. EPA certified;
  - Leaks must be repaired prior to recharging; and,
  - Cylinders must be properly evacuated before disposal.
- Distributors, wholesalers, and re-claimers – Follow prohibitions such as:
  - Must sell high-GWP refrigerants only to certified technicians or their employers.

Beginning January 1, 2012:

- Facilities with systems with greater than or equal to 2,000 lbs. of high-GWP refrigerant must register with the ARB, submit an annual report, and pay annual fees;
- Distributors, wholesalers, and re-claimers must report annually.

Beginning January 1, 2014

- Facilities with systems with greater than or equal to 200 lbs. but less than 2,000 lbs. of high-GWP refrigerant must register, submit an annual report, and pay annual fees.

Beginning January 1, 2016

- Facilities with systems with greater than 50 lbs. but less than 200 lbs. of high-GWP refrigerant must register.

**For More Information**

Visit our website at [www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reftrack/reftrack.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reftrack/reftrack.htm), email [reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov](mailto:reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov); or call the RMP Hotline at (916) 324-2517. You can also sign up for the listserve for news and updates at [www.arb.ca.gov/listser\\_ind.php?listname=reftrack](http://www.arb.ca.gov/listser_ind.php?listname=reftrack).

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