

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Certification Procedures for Small Cans of Automotive Refrigerant

NOTE: This is a new Certification Procedure. For clarity the proposed text is shown in normal type.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| 1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND APPLICABILITY | 2 |
| 2. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | 2 |
| 2.1 Self-sealing Valve and Leakage Rate | 2 |
| 2.2 Container Labeling Requirements | 3 |
| 2.3 Education Requirement..... | 4 |
| 2.4 Operating and Maintenance Instructions | 5 |
| 3. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION | 5 |
| 4. APPLICATION REVIEW..... | 6 |

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board**

**Certification Procedures For
Small Cans of Automotive Refrigerant**

The definitions in Section 2511, Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) apply to this Certification Procedure. For purposes of these Procedures, the term "ARB" refers to the California Air Resources Board.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND APPLICABILITY

This document specifies the criteria and procedures used by ARB to evaluate and certify small cans of automotive refrigerant that are manufactured for sale, advertised for sale, sold, or offered for sale in California or that are introduced, delivered or imported into California for introduction into commerce. An Executive Order will only be issued for a small can of automotive refrigerant that demonstrates compliance with all applicable certification requirements.

Compliance with the standards specified in these procedures does not exempt small cans of automotive refrigerant from compliance with other applicable federal or state statutes and regulations such as safety codes and other safety regulations, nor will the ARB test for or determine compliance with such other statutes or regulations.

2. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A manufacturer seeking an Executive Order for small cans of automotive refrigerant that are subject to the requirements set forth in title 13, CCR sections 2510 et seq. must submit information demonstrating that the small cans of automotive refrigerant comply with each of the requirements set forth below.

2.1 Self-sealing Valve and Leakage Rate

- (A) Each container of refrigerant must be equipped with a single self-sealing valve that automatically closes and seals when not dispensing refrigerant.
- (B) The leakage rate from each container does not exceed 3.0 grams per year when the self-sealing valve is closed. This leakage rate applies to both new, full containers and containers that may be partially full.
- (C) The leakage rate specified in 2.1(B) of these procedures must be

determined by test procedure: "Testing Protocol for Acme Seal Self Sealing Valves, Final SSV Test Protocol 5-19-08, which is incorporated by reference herein.

- (D) All testing to demonstrate compliance with sections 2.1(B) and (C) of these procedures must be conducted by an independent test laboratory in the United States. For purposes of this requirement, an independent test laboratory is one that is not owned, operated or affiliated with the applicant seeking an Executive Order.
- (E) Test procedures other than those specified in this Certification Procedure may be used only if prior written approval is obtained from the Executive Officer. A request for approval to use alternative test procedures must describe the proposed alternative test procedure, including equipment specifications necessary to conduct the test. If training is required to properly perform a test, a proposed training program must be included. The Executive Officer will utilize good engineering judgment to determine if an alternative test procedure will produce data that is as accurate and precise as the data generated from the specified test procedures.
- (F) Test procedures referred to in this Article can be obtained from the California Air Resources Board, and are available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/xxx.htm>.

2.2 Container Labeling Requirements

- (A) Each container of refrigerant must clearly display instructions for proper use in both English and Spanish. The Instructional language must be approved by ARB and must include the following:
 - (1) safety precautions,
 - (2) operational parameters for the vehicle engine, air conditioner, and fan
 - (3) recharging procedures including identification of low pressure port, container rotation, time required for recharging, and disconnecting the container.
- (B) Each container must clearly display the following statement in both English and Spanish in a font size of at least XXXX point:
 - (1) "The content of this container causes Global Warming. California law requires that the purchaser of the container to recycle it within 90 days of purchase to the retailer where it was purchased for a \$10.00 refund with

valid proof of purchase. It is illegal to destroy or discard this container.”

- (2) A date of manufacture.
 - (3) A California specific code, or SKU
 - (4) The following statement in English and Spanish: “Certified for use in California.”
- (C) Each manufacturer must file an explanation of both the date code and representative code specified in subsection (B) with the Executive Officer no later than three months after the effective date of this article or within three months of production, and within three months after any change in coding.

2.3 Education Requirement

- (A) Each manufacturer seeking an Executive Order for small cans of refrigerant must develop educational materials suitable for use by ultimate purchasers automotive refrigerant in small cans. The content of the educational materials must be approved by the Executive Officer and must include the following:
- (1) Information on identifying and repairing leaks in the MVAC system;
 - (2) Proper techniques to minimize can heel and servicing loss while transferring refrigerant from the container to the MVAC system;
 - (3) Information on environmental hazards associated with refrigerant;
 - (4) Information on potential risks to the MVAC system due to lack of professional equipment and diagnostic techniques.
 - (5) Components of the container deposit and return program.
 - (6) Web pages containing the information in items 1 through 5 above that are suitable for browsing by do-it-yourself consumers of automotive refrigerant in small containers
 - (7) Brochures containing the information in items 1 through 5 above that are suitable for distribution to do-it-yourself consumers of automotive refrigerant in small containers
- (B) Any manufacturer who sells small cans of automotive refrigerant that is subject to title 13, CCR Section 2510 et seq. must make available to

consumers a web site containing the educational course materials described in 2.3 (A)(6) of these certification procedures.

- (C) Any retailer who sells small cans of automotive refrigerant that is subject to title 13, CCR Section 2510 et seq. must make available to customers the educational course materials described in 2.3 (A)(7) of these certification procedures.
- (D) On or after January 1, 2010, any retailer selling HFC-134a automotive refrigerant in a container containing less than 2 pounds of refrigerant must display a placard at least 8 ½ inches by 11 inches describing environmental hazards associated with release of HFC-134a, proper filling techniques, and the deposit and recycle program. The language must be in English and Spanish and must be approved by ARB.

2.4 Operating and Maintenance Instructions

Each manufacturer seeking an Executive Order for small cans of refrigerant must supply a copy of the operating instructions specified in 2.2 of these certification procedures.

3. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

An applicant must submit the following information in its application for certification:

- 3.1** Model number(s) and size(s) of the small cans of automotive refrigerant for which certification is requested. The applicant must supply test data that demonstrates the small cans of automotive refrigerant comply with each of the requirements specified in Section 2.1 of these procedures.
- 3.2** Engineering drawings of the small cans of automotive refrigerant that detail the dimensions specific to each component.
- 3.3** A sample of the small can of automotive refrigerant.
- 3.4** Test data from each of the test procedures specified in Section 2.1 of these procedures.
- 3.5** Any other test data that supports the requirements in 3.4 above and that would assist in the determination of certification.
- 3.6** The language and documentation required by Sections 2.2 through 2.4 of these procedures.

4. APPLICATION REVIEW

- 4.1** If an application for certification contains all of the information required by these procedures, it will be deemed to be complete, and will be processed for certification. The application will not be deemed complete unless an applicant has supplied all of the information required by section 3 of these procedures.
- 4.2** The Executive Officer may find it necessary to request additional information from the applicant in order to fully evaluate the application.
- 4.3** Applications will be processed in accordance with the procedures and time periods set forth in 17 CCR section 60030 et seq. The time periods may be extended by the Executive Officer for good cause.
- 4.4** An application must be signed by the applicant or by their authorized delegate.