



### Air Conditioning Licensing & Management

Under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* (amended in 2005) and the *Ozone Protection & Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* (amended in 2003), it is mandatory for industry to recover, return and safely dispose of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants.

The *Ozone Protection & Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* (amended in 2003), is a National (Commonwealth) Act, and overrides existing State and Territory requirements on ozone depleting refrigerants.

Under this new law industry must handle HFCs, such as R134a and R404A, the same way it handles CFCs like R12 and HCFCs like R22.

There are new obligations for industry under the Act.

These include:

- ✓ Technicians need an Australia-wide competency-based licence to operate.
- ✓ Companies buying or selling refrigerants must be authorised (they must obtain a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation).
- ✓ Recovery of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants is compulsory.
- ✓ Avoidable venting of fluorocarbon refrigerants into the atmosphere is an offense.
- ✓ Sellers of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants have to take them back.
- ✓ Importers of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants either as bulk or contained in equipment, must have an importers licence.

To enable the recovery process, the industry created **Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA)** to establish and develop an Australia-wide program to take back used and unwanted refrigerant in order to prevent its release into the atmosphere.

When you return recovered refrigerant to a wholesaler they weigh and decant it into large cylinders and collect a rebate for you, paid for by the RRA. RRA then arranges for the refrigerant to be collected from the wholesaler, tested and then destroyed using the plasma-arc process that transforms it into salts and water.

## How the System Works

In order to legally manage and dispose of your refrigerant follow the five easy steps below:

- Rent, buy or take on deposit a recovery cylinder from a refrigeration gas wholesaler,
- Use the cylinder to recover used and contaminated refrigerants from systems serviced,
- Take full cylinders to the refrigeration wholesaler,
- Take back emptied or new cylinders from wholesaler,
- Collect credit for each kilo of recovered refrigerants.

## Note

Businesses do not have to use the above system with Refrigerant Reclaim Australia if they recycle their refrigerants on site with a proper refrigerant recycling machine.

## Refrigerant Handling Licences

Your businesses employees must obtain a Refrigerant Handling Licence (Automotive Air Conditioning Licence) from the **Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd. (ARC)** if they are to work on air conditioning equipment. These licences must be renewed every 2 years. A photocopy of the licence must also be kept on file by the responsible person.

A Refrigerant Handling Licence (RHL) is required to work on air conditioning equipment in any of the following category of vehicles;

- Passenger car,
- Forward control passenger vehicle,
- Off-road passenger vehicles,
- Registrable commercial vehicles,
- Any off-road vehicle, including tractors and farm machinery fitted with an air conditioning system of a type normally used in the previous category of vehicles,
- Automotive plant and equipment,
- Any other self-propelled vehicle, which has a cabin fitted with a type of air conditioner normally fitted to one of the vehicle types previously listed.

### Codes of Practice

For more information on how to properly handle refrigerants it is important to refer to the industry Codes of Practice. The *Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2007 Part 1*, *Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2007 Part 2*, and *The Australian Automotive Code of Practice 2008 – Control of refrigerant gases during manufacture, installation, servicing or de-commissioning of motor vehicle air conditioners*, are all important documents to refer to in regards to this. They can be found at the Australian Refrigeration Council website, under 'Codes of Practice'.

### Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

[www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd.

Phone: 1300 88 44 83

<http://www.arctick.org/index.php>

Refrigerant Reclaim Australia

Phone: (02) 6230 5244

<http://www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au/>