

R22 PHASEOUT INFORMATION

KEY FACTS & OUTCOMES FROM THE FINAL US EPA HCFC PHASEOUT RULES



WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

Two EPA Regulations were finalized in early December 2009 for the Protection of Stratospheric Ozone:

- Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import, and Export - Referred to as "The Allocation Rule"
- Ban on the Sale or Distribution of Pre-Charged Appliances - Referred to as "The Precharged Rule"

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR REFRIGERANTS

- The production and consumption caps for R-22 step down approximately 10% annually from 2010 through 2014.
- 20% of estimated R-22 demand will need to come from reclaimed refrigerant.

WHAT PRODUCTS ARE AFFECTED?

APPLIANCES Split systems, packaged systems, and refrigeration systems are clearly defined as meeting four criteria:

- Refrigerant circuit is complete
- Appliance can function
- Appliance is charged with refrigerant
- Appliance is ready for intended use

COMPONENTS Condensing units, compressors, and line-sets are clearly defined as meeting three criteria:

- OEM has completed assembly
- Charged with refrigerant
- Ready for initial distribution or sale

Manufacturers are prohibited from continuing to sell or distribute components pre-charged with virgin or reclaimed refrigerant, or blends including HCFCs, on or after January 1, 2010.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010? SERVICING VS. NEW INSTALLATION

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL R-22 SYSTEM REPAIR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010

- Both rules clearly state that there are no prohibitions to the continued servicing of existing R-22 air conditioning and refrigeration systems. Distributors can sell and technicians can install any components necessary to maintain existing systems as long as any pre-charged components (residential condensing units, for example) are manufactured before January 1, 2010.
- There are no sale or distribution restrictions on components in inventory before January 1, 2010 when used for servicing purposes.

NEW CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, SYSTEM EXPANSIONS (i.e. NEW FOOTPRINTS) AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010

- "New" is defined as installing an appliance using virgin R-22, R-142b, or any blend thereof where one did not previously exist.
- Virgin R-22, R-142b, or blends thereof cannot be used to initially charge a new air-conditioning or refrigeration system after January 1, 2010 **except when 1) A new installation project (i.e. new construction or major system expansion) was approved, permitted, or products were procured in 2009 in which case such projects have until December 31, 2011 to be completed with HCFC virgin refrigerant, or 2) A new system installation is initially charged entirely with reclaimed refrigerant.**

Useful Analogy: Servicing is working on an existing system footprint, while a new installation is the creation of a new system footprint.

Facts and information assembled by HARDI



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