

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Refrigerant Management Program

### What is the Refrigerant Management Program?

The Refrigerant Management Program (RMP) requires specific best management practices such as leak inspections, registration, and reporting to ARB to reduce greenhouse gases emissions from non-residential refrigeration systems. The regulation includes provisions similar to current federal and local ozone-depleting substance (ODS) regulations, and extends regulatory requirements to the use of ODS refrigerant substitutes such as HFCs.

### Why was the Refrigerant Management Program created?

- To minimize refrigerant leaks from stationary, non-residential refrigeration equipment.
- To reduce emissions of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC), and hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, which are highly potent greenhouse gases, which are typically thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), by using the program's best management practices.
- To help meet the goal of reducing CA greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, by implementing AB 32 Early Action Measures.

### Who must comply with the regulation?

The regulation affects any owner/operator of a facility with a stationary, non-residential refrigeration system using more than 50 pounds of a high-global warming potential (high-GWP) refrigerant. The 50-pound threshold applies to the refrigeration system with the largest refrigerant charge at that facility. It is not based on the cumulative total charge of all refrigeration systems at the facility.

The regulation also affects any person who services any stationary high-GWP appliance, including air conditioning systems, or who distributes or reclaims any high-GWP refrigerant.

### What is a high-global warming potential refrigerant?

High-global warming potential, or high-GWP, refrigerants, include CFC, HCFC, and HFC refrigerants such as R-12, R-22, R-404A, R-407A, R-410A, R-507, and many more. High-GWP refrigerants do not include ammonia and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

### What types of businesses have refrigeration systems with more than 50 pounds of high-GWP refrigerant?

Businesses that generally use refrigeration systems with more than 50 pounds of high-GWP refrigerant include: supermarkets and grocery stores, food and beverage processors, cold storage warehouses, and industrial process cooling. Businesses that generally do not have these types of refrigeration systems include: bars and restaurants, gas stations, liquor stores, bakeries, and office buildings.

### How can a business determine the refrigerant charge of their refrigeration system?

A business can determine the refrigerant charge of their refrigeration system(s) by contacting the manufacturer or their refrigeration system service provider. The name plate may also specify the charge information.

### What are the estimated emission reductions of the regulation?

The regulation is estimated to reduce high-GWP refrigerant emissions by 8 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E) per year. This reduction has an equivalent climate impact of removing 1.4 million cars and light trucks from the road.

### What are the estimated costs?

On average, the regulation results in a cost savings of \$2 per metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) in emissions reduced. The cost savings are a direct result of reduced consumption of refrigerant through the use of best management practices.

## What does the regulation require?

The regulation requires facility registration, regular leak inspections and monitoring, leak repair within 14 days, retrofit or retirement for leaking systems, and recordkeeping for any person who owns or operates a facility with a stationary, non-residential refrigeration system using more than 50 pounds of a high-GWP refrigerant. Reporting and payment of an implementation fee is required for each facility that owns/operates a stationary system using 200 pounds or more of a high-GWP refrigerant. Required service practices apply to any person who services any appliance using a high-GWP refrigerant. Reporting and recordkeeping requirements also apply to distributors, wholesalers, and reclaimers of high-GWP refrigerants.

## When did the regulation take effect?

The regulation has requirements that are phased in over time depending on the largest refrigeration system used at a facility.

Refrigeration facilities are categorized as:

- Large: largest system uses 2,000 pounds or more of a high-GWP refrigerant
  - *Systems typically used in cold storage warehouses, manufacturing, and some supermarkets*
- Medium: largest system uses 200 pounds or more, but less than 2,000 pounds, of a high-GWP refrigerant
  - *Systems typically used in smaller warehouses and many supermarkets*
- Small: largest system uses more than 50 pounds, but less than 200 pounds, of a high-GWP refrigerant
  - *Systems typically used in some pharmacies and grocery stores*

The following requirements for facilities using applicable refrigeration systems, refrigerant distributors and refrigerant reclaimers have been in place since the effective date of the regulation (January 1, 2011):

- Required Service Practices applicable to the service of any stationary high-GWP appliance
- Leak inspection, monitoring, and recordkeeping
- Retrofit or retirement plans
- Refrigerant distributor, wholesaler, and reclaimer prohibitions

Refrigerant distributor, wholesaler, and reclaimer annual reporting requirements became effective in 2012. Requirements for facilities using applicable refrigeration systems are phasing in as follows:

- Facility registration: Large in 2012, Medium in 2014, Small in 2016.
- Annual implementation Fee: Paid upon initial registration for operation, and annually thereafter - Large (\$370) and Medium (\$170). There is no fee for Small facilities.
- Annual Facility reporting: Large began in 2012 and Medium began in 2014. No reporting is required for Small, however, service records may be entered in the R3 system.

## How will the Refrigerant Management Program be enforced?

- Enforcement staff may conduct site visits and inspections. All records must be kept on site.
- Air districts may adopt a rule of equivalent emission reduction benefit under local authority.
- Air districts may enforce statewide regulation under agreements with the ARB using funding provided through facility registration fees.

## Where can I find more information about the regulation?

For further information, please visit [www.arb.ca.gov/rmp](http://www.arb.ca.gov/rmp), email [rmp@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rmp@arb.ca.gov), or call the RMP Hotline at (916) 324-2517.

## REGISTRATION DEADLINES



### Large

≥ 2,000 lbs.  
of high-GWP refrigerant

Large facilities must register and report immediately



### Medium

≥ 200 lbs. < 2,000 lbs.  
of high-GWP refrigerant

Medium facilities must register and report immediately



### Small

> 50 lbs. < 200 lbs.  
of high-GWP refrigerant

Small facilities must register by March 1, 2016