



# Air Resources Board



**Linda S. Adams**  
Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chairman**  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

## Notice to Refrigeration Service Providers

### New State Rule for Servicing Large Refrigeration Systems Effective January 1, 2011

Refrigeration service providers should be aware of a new state regulation that applies to facilities using large refrigeration systems such as supermarkets, cold storage warehouses, food processing plants and industrial cooling operations.

The new rule is environmentally more stringent than the long-established federal requirements for refrigeration systems. It targets not only refrigerants known to deplete the Earth's protective ozone shield but also those that have "high global warming potential (high-GWP)" – most commonly CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) and HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons).

The California regulation aims to minimize leakage of these environmentally harmful compounds. Starting Jan. 1, 2011, the regulation requires facilities that use more than 50 pounds of refrigerant per unit to conduct regular leak inspections or, for the larger systems, install automatic leak detection systems. *They must fix all leaks within 14 days of detection – no matter the rate of leakage.* No refrigerant may be added to systems with known leaks.

Systems charged with ammonia or carbon dioxide are not affected by this regulation nor are air conditioners used exclusively for comfort.

#### Facility Requirements

Starting in 2012, facilities with the largest refrigeration systems (2,000 or more pounds refrigerant capacity) must register with the Air Resources Board and report their refrigerant usage and repairs in the previous calendar year (2011). Facilities with smaller systems must register and report in later years (2014 and 2016).

#### Service Providers

As with the federal rule, the California regulation requires installers and servicers of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment using any amount of high-GWP refrigerants to follow U.S. EPA's service practices, such as the no-venting requirement. The state rule, however, is stricter on some practices. For example, it requires proper evacuation of refrigerant cylinders before disposal and prohibits adding refrigerant to a leaky system.

Please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions for service providers. Further information can be obtained and downloaded at the Refrigerant Management Program website: [www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reftrack/reftrack.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reftrack/reftrack.htm). For questions, please email Air Resources Board staff at [reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov](mailto:reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov) or call (916) 324-2517.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency