

CALIFORNIA HIGH GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY

California High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program Background

- In 2006 the Governor signed SB 32, enacting the Global Warming Act of 2006, which created a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emission limit that would reduce California GHG emissions by 25% by 2020.
- At the direction of the legislation, the California Air Resources Board (CalARB) established the High Global Warming Potential Refrigerant Management Program for stationary sources. The goal of the program is to reduce GHG emissions from stationary refrigeration and cooling sources in California to 1990 levels by 2020.

California High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program

- The High Global Warming Potential Refrigerant Management Program hopes to achieve it's goals through the following program components:
 1. Leak Detection and Monitoring
 2. Leak Repair
 3. Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning System Retrofit and retirement
 4. Required Services Practices
 5. Reporting by facilities and refrigerant distributors and reclaimers
- The High Global Warming Potential Refrigerant Management Program will generally impact the following types of businesses:
 1. Cold Storage Warehouses
 2. Grocery Stores/Supermarkets
 3. Food Preparation and Processing plants
 4. Process Cooling
 5. Pharmacies
 6. Large Convenience Stores
- The estimated number of facilities impacted by the rule in the state of California is 49,000.
 - * Please note that the rule is not applicable to any business using ammonia-based refrigeration systems.

Elements of the High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program

- Leak Repair - The focus of leak repair will be on large refrigeration equipment, e.g., commercial building chillers and rooftop units, supermarket systems and industrial process refrigeration.

- Leak Detection and Monitoring - Facilities with large systems will be required to install automatic leak detection equipment. Facilities with medium sized systems will be required to perform quarterly inspections and facilities with small systems will be required to perform annual inspections.
- Leak Repair Retrofit and Retirement Plans – Refrigerant leak repairs will be required to be performed by U.S. EPA certified technicians within 14 days of a leak detection (60 days allowed if certain conditions apply e.g. proof of backlog on parts). Immediate initial verification tests of correcting the leak will be required on all leak repairs. Follow up verification tests will be required for the entire repaired refrigeration systems. Retrofit or retirement plans will be required for all refrigeration systems that are not repairable.

High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program Requirements for Technician Certification and Service Practices

- A certified technician must have both of the following (1&2):
 1. Hold a valid certification issued by a training program certified by the U.S. EPA in one of the following categories:
 - Type 1, Technician certified for small appliances; or
 - Type 2, Technician certified for high or very high pressure refrigeration systems; or
 - Type 3, Technician certified for low pressure refrigerant systems; or
 - Type 4, A Universal Technician certificate
 2. Hold a current and active California contractor’s license, or be an employee of a person holding a current and active California contractor’s license.

* Employees of the facility owner or operator are exempt.

- Required service practices
 1. Practices in Code of Federal Regulations
 - No discharge of refrigerant from refrigerant circuit (no venting)
 - Refrigerant recovery using approved recovery/recycling equipment
 - Technician must hold a valid U.S. EPA certificate
 - Refrigerant recovery using approved equipment and procedures
 - Service of refrigeration or air-conditioning systems consistent with U.S. EPA certification
 2. Practices Not Specific to Code of Federal Regulations (New California Requirements)
 - Use of approved U.S. EPA refrigerants
 - Refrigerant cylinder evacuation
 - No topping off

High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program Facility Reporting Requirements

- Annual Report

- Refrigeration service and leak repair report
 - Facility refrigeration purchased and used report
- Record Keeping –Records retained for 5 years
- Records to support required annual reports
 - Documentation of all leak detection systems
 - Records of all service and refrigeration leak repairs

High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program Refrigerant Wholesalers, Distributors &Reclaimers Requirements

- Prohibitions
1. No sale or distribution in a container greater than 2 pounds unless:
 - The buyer is or employees a person who is certified by U.S. EPA
 - Refrigerant is sold only for resale or reclamation
 - Refrigeration is contained in an appliance
 2. No sale of refrigerant to a new owner unless it has been reclaimed
 3. No cylinder disposal unless facility evacuates under vacuum
 4. No refill or modifications to allow refill of non-refillable cylinder

High-GWP Refrigerant Management Program Refrigerant Wholesalers, Distributors &Reclaimers Reporting and Record Keeping

- Reporting and record keeping requirements for Refrigerant Wholesalers, Distributors & Reclaimers
1. Distributors & wholesalers must report total refrigerant received and distributed for resale or use by category
 - Certified Technician or Employer
 - Appliance manufacturer
 - Refrigerant Distributor, Broker or any other
 2. Reclaimer Reporting – Report total annual refrigerant received, reclaimed, and destroyed
 3. Recordkeeping – Records maintained for 5 years