



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities



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## 42,000 people visited online RTA business directory this summer – and counting

Between 1 January 2013 and 1 March 2013, more than 42,000 people visited [www.lookforthetick.com.au](http://www.lookforthetick.com.au) to locate authorised businesses and licensed technicians, and find useful information on buying, servicing and maintaining air conditioners.

These numbers suggest that the message for people to use authorised businesses and licensed technicians when installing and servicing air conditioners (RAC and Auto) is being heard.

The ARC tries hard to communicate this message through a number of cost effective promotions and advertising. Importantly for RTA and RHL holders, this translates directly to more business and increases the value of being part of the RAC licence scheme.



## More than 300 submissions on the proposed National Occupational Licensing System

The Council of Australian Governments National Licensing Taskforce (the Taskforce) has been consulting with state, territory and federal governments, stakeholders, industry associations and regulators on new national occupational licensing arrangements that include the refrigeration and air conditioning occupation as well as the electrical, plumbing and gasfitting and property occupations.

Following consultation on possible options for the licensing of the refrigeration and air-conditioning occupation in late 2012, the Taskforce has reviewed the varied comments presented in submissions from a wide range of stakeholders. These comments will inform the consideration of national licensing options that are expected to commence this year.

The existing ARC-administered licensing scheme, ARCTick, regulates the use of ozone-depleting and synthetic greenhouse gases on behalf of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC). The national licensing work is focused on broader regulation of the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry, including consumer protection and health and safety issues, and is not restricted to the ozone-depleting or synthetic greenhouse gasses regulated under the ARCTick system.

The Consultation Regulation Impact Statement for the refrigeration and air-conditioning occupations was released on 13 August 2012 for a period of two months. This paper presented a number of options for occupational licensing to be implemented into the RAC industry that included:

- two options for national licensing. Model A proposed licensing at the contractor, technician and provisional licensing levels, while Model B would apply licensing to contractors only
- an option for maintaining the 'status quo' with varying arrangements in different states
- a system of automatic mutual recognition of licensing between states and territories.

The Commonwealth ARCTick licence remains a licensing requirement under all options presented, and in all jurisdictions, if a person is working with ozone-depleting or synthetic greenhouse gasses.

The National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA), an independent statutory authority, has been established to oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of the national occupational licensing scheme including the arrangements for refrigeration and air-conditioning. Further information on the proposed national licensing arrangements, including copies of the public submissions received in response to the consultation process can be found at the NOLA website ([www.nola.gov.au](http://www.nola.gov.au)).

Members of the RAC industry are encouraged to visit the NOLA website for further updates as this work progresses in 2013.

### In this issue

- ✓ 42,000 people visited online RTA business directory this summer – and counting
- ✓ More than 300 submissions on the proposed National Occupational Licensing System
- ✓ Thinking of working with alternative refrigerants?
- ✓ New blood on ARC Board
- ✓ Retailers and ARC helping to promote licensed businesses
- ✓ Have you got this equipment?
- ✓ RHL and RTA holders – the frontline of environmental protection
- ✓ Who needs a Trainee Licence?

**RTA  
equipment  
checklist**  
PAGE 3



# Thinking of working with alternative refrigerants?

## Chances are you will still need your RHL.

Alternative refrigerants such as ammonia, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons are not covered under the current ARCTick licence scheme and the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995. However, it is important to remember that if you are

recovering fluorocarbon refrigerant from RAC equipment and replacing with an alternative refrigerant, you will still require an appropriate refrigerant handling licence (RHL). Individuals who handle fluorocarbon refrigerant without a licence are breaking the law. For more relevant information on alternative refrigerants visit [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) and type 'safety considerations when using flammable refrigerants' in the search bar.

## New blood on ARC Board

At the 2012 ARC Annual General Meeting held in Melbourne on the 20 November 2012, two new representatives were elected to the ARC Board, as well as a new Chairman.

Kevin O'Shea from the Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Contractors Association (RACCA) was elected as a stationary representative, taking over from retiring Director Robert Taylor who has served the maximum 6 years on the Board.

Ian Stangroome from Vehicle Air Conditioning Specialists of Australia (VASA) was also elected to the Board as an automotive representative, taking over from retiring Director and Chairman Mark Padwick who has also served a maximum 6 years on the Board.

Current ARC Board Member Gunther Jurkschat from Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) was elected as the new Chairman of the ARC.

"The ARC in collaboration with the RAC Industry has made a real and positive difference to the environment, and the RAC Industry is to be congratulated in the way it has embraced the scheme, collectively reducing our environmental footprint," said Gunther Jurkschat, speaking to Cool Change recently. "The ARC is in

the business of assisting the Industry comply with its legal obligations. We do this through helping approximately 70,000 individuals and businesses apply for or renew their licence, attend around 60,000 phone calls and conduct approximately 6,200 audits and non-licensed checks.

The ARC also encourages consumers to use the services of an ARC licenced person or authorised business through a comprehensive communications strategy."

The ARC thanked both Mark Padwick and Robert Taylor for their leadership and dedication to the ARC Board over the last 6 years.

The ARC's industry Board comes from the ARC membership and is representative of the refrigeration and air conditioning sector. The Board consists of three Directors from the stationary sector and three Directors from the automotive sector. The ARC CEO is the Executive Director.



Gunther Jurkschat



Ian Stangroome



Kevin O'Shea



### Four questions to ask before you purchase an air conditioner

This quick reference guide provides you with important questions to ask to ensure you select the right air conditioner for your needs, and that it is installed legally and correctly.

## Checklist

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY A NEW AIR CONDITIONER:

- Make sure you discuss which air conditioner will best suit the layout of your house.**  
Think about influencing factors like insulation, windows and number of rooms you want cooled.
- Ask if the air conditioning system's kW size is the right capacity for your needs.**  
This could save you a lot of money in the long run.
- Ask how energy efficient the air conditioner is.**  
This should be displayed on the star energy rating label on the product.
- Discuss installation with your sales representative.**  
Ask if their installers are appropriately licensed through the ARC. If they do not have installers, you can find licensed technicians at [www.lookforthetick.com.au](http://www.lookforthetick.com.au)  
Never DIY install a fluorocarbon-gas air conditioner. Only licensed technicians can legally install and service fluorocarbon-gas air conditioners.

## Retailers and ARC helping to promote licensed businesses

The ARC has developed an easy to read checklist of questions for consumers to ask sales people in-store, before they purchase an air conditioner. As well as important questions regarding room size, type of home, and energy efficiency considerations, the check list highlights the significance of using licensed technicians to install and maintain fluorocarbon air conditioners. This will help to drive customers to licence holders, as well as improve the standard of installations.

At the 'point of sale' is a very important time to educate the consumer. The ARC – with the help of retailers throughout Australia – is confident the ARC Air Con Checklist will encourage smart purchasing and compliant installation and maintenance.

**Over 1000 air conditioning retail outlets were sent the ARC Air Con Checklist in December 2012.**

# Have you got this equipment?

RTA's

If your business holds a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation, then you need to have in your possession specific equipment and records. Below is an illustrated checklist to help you identify what you need and where to find the information. These are just some of the requirements of your Refrigerant Trading Authorisation issued by the ARC. If you are not meeting these requirements, then you are in breach of your Authorisation. If you are not sure of all of the requirements of your Authorisation, or are unsure how to comply, you can call the ARC on 1300 88 44 83.

## Equipment list

Make sure you keep quarterly records of the make, model and serial number of the equipment shown here (you should also keep quarterly records of inspection and maintenance of the equipment).

### Electronic leak detector



### Vacuum pump



### Refrigerant recovery unit



## Refrigerant Gas Cylinders

Make sure you keep quarterly records for the following: refrigerant type, cylinder serial number and cylinder test date.

You also need to undertake quarterly leak testing of cylinders, and keep a record of the dates when you've done that testing.



**Cylinder serial number**  
(generally stamped into the handle/collar of the cylinder)

**Cylinder test date**  
(generally stamped into the handle/collar of the cylinder)

**Refrigerant type**

## Refrigerant Records

Quarterly records for refrigerant bought, sold and recovered (bulk amounts).

## Risk Management Plan

Specific to the handling and storage of refrigerant at your business. Visit the Audit section of the ARC website for help on creating a RMP.

## Displaying your RTA number on RAC advertising and stationery

Includes vehicle advertising.

## Licensed staff lists

A list of all staff at your organisation who hold a current Refrigerant Handling Licence, including name, licence number, licence entitlement, and expiry date.



Images used as examples only.

## RHL and RTA holders – the frontline of environmental protection

### How the refrigerant import licence, ARC licence and refrigerant recovery combine to protect you and your family.

Most people have heard of the ozone layer. It protects us from the Sun's harmful UV rays that can cause skin cancer and crop damage, among other things. You may even know that fluorocarbon refrigerant gas – when released into the atmosphere – can damage the ozone layer. But did you know that by getting a RAC licence/authorisation and doing the right things, you are in the front line of protecting the ozone layer and helping to reduce global warming?

Australia is a world leader in efforts to protect the ozone layer and reduce emissions of synthetic greenhouse gasses (this includes various popular refrigerant gases). This has been achieved through the combined efforts of the Australian Government and the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) industry.

Australia has an Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (SGG) product stewardship scheme which involves three key areas for controlling the use of fluorocarbon refrigerant:

- Import/Manufacturing licence – administered by the Australian government
- RAC industry licence (ARC)
- Refrigerant recovery/destruction (Refrigerant Reclaim Australia - RRA)

All areas work together and combine to minimise emissions of ODSs and SGGs – thereby having a real and positive impact on the environment. The RAC licence, for example, restricts the purchase, sale, storage and handling of refrigerant to those who have proven themselves to be competent and qualified. This, in turn, reduces the risk of improper installation or servicing of RAC equipment, which then minimises the possibility of refrigerant leaking into the atmosphere and potentially damaging the ozone layer and contributing to climate change.

So next time you are discussing compliance with an ARC Field Officer or reapplying for your licence, remember that you are helping to make Australia a better place for you and your family.

# Who needs a Trainee Licence?

The ARC provides Trainee and Trainee classroom licences for individuals completing apprenticeships and/or studying a course that requires handling of refrigerant.

If you are completing an apprenticeship or working in a garage (Auto), and you are studying a course at a registered training organisation that involves the handling of refrigerant, then you will require a **Trainee Licence**.

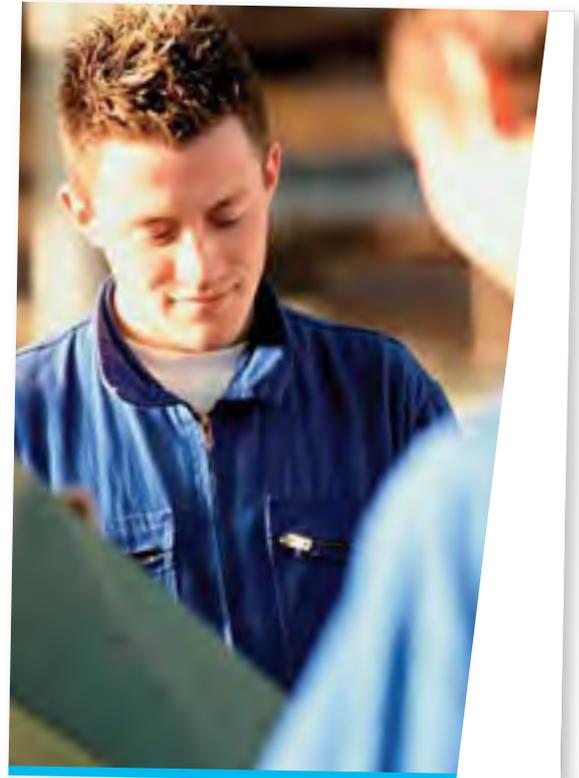
If you are handling refrigerant in the classroom only then you will require a **Trainee Classroom Licence**. See table below for full outline of what each licence entitles you to do.

Although it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to ensure they are appropriately licensed prior to handling refrigerant, it is also important that business owners and RTOs enrolling students in RAC courses make it their responsibility to ensure the individual working/studying under their 'business' is not breaking the law.

## What do you do once you have completed your course/apprenticeship?

If you have completed your course/apprenticeship and received your qualifications, and you wish to begin handling refrigerant as a professional you will need to apply for a refrigerant handling licence. This can be done online at [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org). The application process is easier and more streamlined if you apply for your refrigerant handling licence before your Trainee licence has expired.

Contact the ARC customer service team on 1300 884 483 if you have any questions.



Are your students/apprentices ARC-licensed?

ARC AUSTRALIAN REFRIGERATION COUNCIL



## Have you changed address?

To help the ARC keep you up-to-date with all licence-related information, please visit the Online Application & Change of details section of [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org) and update your details if you have changed address or phone/email.



## Prefer email?

If you would prefer to receive CoolChange via email, please email your details to [coolchange@arctick.org](mailto:coolchange@arctick.org)

Licence type	Licence entitlement
<b>Trainee Licence</b>	To handle a refrigerant while undertaking training and/or assessment in a classroom setting and at your work place under supervision. The supervisor must be the holder of a licence that entitles them to engage in work for which the licensee is being trained. This licence is valid for the period of training, which can be up to one year.
<b>Trainee Classroom Licence</b>	To handle refrigerant in a classroom setting only. The licensee cannot handle refrigerant outside the classroom setting. This licence is valid for a period of training which can be up to 1 year.