



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities



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# ARC Members' Forum

The recent industry forum "Industry Matters" hosted in Sydney in September by the Australian Refrigeration Council was a huge success. Many industry issues were canvassed and discussed openly and constructively with a view to improving the success of the RAC industry.

The forum recognised the importance of fostering communication between the ARC's industry member associations, each a key player in the RAC industry. It provided an opportunity to harness ideas in a collaborative way to better inform both the ARC and the government, on the RAC industry's future.

ARC member associations who participated in the forum had the opportunity to enter into broad discussions on matters impacting the RAC industry and the performance and role of the ARC.

Attendees at the forum represented the Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air Conditioning & Heating (AIRAH), Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), Refrigerants Australia (RA), Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (RACCA), Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC), Vehicle Air Conditioning Specialists Association (VASA) and the ARC.

### Key areas of discussion:

- ✓ The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) national occupational licensing for A/C and refrigeration. There was strong support from the attendees for the ARC to administer to the RAC sector.
- ✓ An apparent lack of awareness of the obligation to hold an ARC licence where fluorocarbon refrigerant is evacuated from a system before it is retrofitted with a non-fluorocarbon refrigerant.
- ✓ ARC audit activity should be communicated more effectively. Organisations present were unaware that the ARC undertook 7200 audits in the past 12 months.
- ✓ More effective communication of the ratio of compliant/non-compliant audits is desirable.

- ✓ Information should be provided on the number of technicians and businesses that have been found to be operating without a permit and how many have since been granted a permit.
  - ✓ The rate of growth of the permit scheme should be promoted more widely.
  - ✓ Mandatory maintenance requirements for commercial buildings should be explored given the potential environmental and cost benefits of an efficiently operating air conditioning plant and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
  - ✓ Organisations at the forum saw the ARC as the peak industry body and felt it should be promoting 'best practice'.
  - ✓ The RTA and RHL search facilities are to be commended. It is suggested that the search fields for RHL searches be expanded to provide for easier use by consumers.
  - ✓ Consideration should be given to 'gold star branding' for those in the industry who follow best practice and follows on from the recognition of the 'tick' branding with consumers.
  - ✓ The ARC needs to be involved in development and review of relevant standards by Standards Australia.
  - ✓ There should be a level playing field with all refrigerants and relevant training, competencies and licencing applying to everyone handling refrigerants.
- The issues discussed are to be put to the ARC Board for further consideration. Subsequent to the board's consideration, feedback will be provided back to forum attendees.
- Attendees agreed there was unanimous support for an annual forum of a similar nature.**

### Forum Attendees



### In this issue

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# Scope of the Automotive Air Conditioning Refrigerant Handling Licence

Individuals who have undertaken the 'Certificate II in Automotive – Mechanical – Air Conditioning' and have acquired a current 'Automotive Air Conditioning Refrigerant Handling Licence' must only undertake work according to any entitlements or conditions assigned to that licence.

If their Certificate II does not include the competency, 'Overhaul Air Conditioning System Components' their handling licence will carry the condition that they are not entitled to undertake any 'overhaul' of air conditioning systems on vehicles.

The regulations stipulate the holder of an automotive refrigerant handling licence is entitled to handle refrigerant for any work on air conditioning equipment fitted to the cabin of a motor vehicle only.

The Australian Automotive Code of Practice for the Control of Refrigerant Gases during Manufacture, Installation, Servicing or

Decommissioning of Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners 2008 covers the following categories of motor vehicles:

- ✓ passenger cars
- ✓ forward control passenger vehicles
- ✓ off-road passenger vehicles
- ✓ registrable commercial vehicles and omnibuses
- ✓ any other off-road vehicle, including tractors and farm machinery fitted with an air conditioning system of a type normally used in the above category of vehicles
- ✓ automotive plant and equipment
- ✓ any other self-propelled vehicle, which has a cabin fitted with a type of air conditioner normally fitted to one of the vehicle types listed above.

The above categories do not include any type of mobile refrigerated transport. Individuals handling fluorocarbon refrigerants while working on these systems must hold a current RAC or Transport Refrigeration Transitional Refrigeration Handling Licence.

## Your details on the Handling Licence

The information provided on RHL cards has been reformatted to clarify the licence name and identify entitlements or conditions relevant to that RHL.

The old version of the RHL card displayed the licence type and any entitlements or conditions on the front. The reverse of the card simply detailed all the licence types available.

The updated card details the licence type fully on the front. The reverse of the card displays all entitlements or conditions associated with the licence type.

Other information on the front of the card remains the same: photograph, RHL number, expiry date and holder's name.

The updated version of the card will assist consumers to verify that the holder of an RHL is permitted to undertake the work and will confirm the holder is who they claim to be when they use the licence check facility on the 'look for the tick' website.

### Updated Licence Front

Full Refrigeration & Air Conditioning  
(previously RAC)

Automotive Air Conditioning  
(previously Auto)

### Updated Licence Reverse

**RAC:** For any work in refrigeration and air conditioning excluding automotive

**Automotive:** Must not overhaul automotive A/C components



**Licence Entitlements & Conditions**  
FULL RAC (1): Any work in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry other than automotive air conditioning.  
FULL RAC (2): Trainee licence.

If found please return to: ARC, Locked Bag 3033 Box Hill VIC 3128 Ph 1300 884 483

# Refrigerant phase-out dates

*CoolChange* has continued to provide you with updates and information on the phase-out of refrigerants such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The phase-out of HCFCs is in accordance with Australia's obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Australia is excelling in its environmental obligations under the Montreal Protocol and, as reported in the June edition of *CoolChange*, will essentially have phased out consumption of HCFCs by 2016.

## What does this mean if I have a cylinder of HCFC in stock after the phase-out date?

Existing stocks of HCFCs can still be used as long as the cylinder is still within its test date. All cylinders of fluorocarbon refrigerants that have an expired in-test date need to be returned to the wholesaler or supplier, this is a requirement of your refrigerant trading authorisation. Similarly HCFCs existing in equipment at the time of phase-out can be recycled and re-used according to your normal business practices.

The table summarises the progress that Australia has made under the Montreal Protocol and the steps we will take in the future to meet our obligations. Further information on the Montreal Protocol can be found at:

[www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/legislation/montp.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/legislation/montp.html)



REFRIGERANT TYPE	PHASE-OUT DATES IN AUSTRALIA	PHASE-OUT DATES UNDER THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
<b>CFC's</b>		
R11	Australia ceased the import and manufacture of CFCs on 1 January 1996*  * with the exception of a very small number of internationally agreed essential uses that are considered critical to human health and/or laboratory and analytical procedures.	Phased out end of 1995*  * with the exception of a very small number of internationally agreed essential uses that are considered critical to human health and/or laboratory and analytical procedures.
R12		
R113		
R114		
R500		
R502		
<b>HCFC's</b>		
R22	Freeze from beginning of 1996† Stepwise phase down of HCFC imports from 2000 to 2015~  Total phase-out by 2016^  The stepwise phase down of the HCFC import quota, in ODP tonnes per year, for; the period 1996 to 1999 was 250 ODP tonnes;  reduced to 70 ODP tonnes for 2010 and 2011; 40 ODP tonnes for 2012 and 2013; 10 ODP tonnes for 2014 and 2015.  † Based on 1989 HCFC consumption with an extra allowance (ODP weighted) equal to 2.8% of 1989 CFC consumption.  ~ Phase down of HCFC use in Australia is controlled under a quota system in the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989.  ^ Up to 0.5% of base level consumption can be used until 2030 for servicing existing equipment, subject to a review in 2015.	Freeze from beginning of 1996† 35% reduction by 2004 75% reduction by 2010 90% reduction by 2015 Total phase-out by 2020^
R123		
R124		
R401A		
R401B		
R401C		
R402A		
R402B		
R403A		
R403B		
R405A		
R406A		
R408A		
R409A		
R409B		
R411A		
R411B		
R412A		
R416A		
R509A		
<b>HFC's</b>		
R125		
R134A		
R404A		
R407A		
R407B		
R407C		
R410A		
R413A		
R417A		
R507A		

The Montreal Protocol does not forbid the use of existing or recycled controlled substances beyond the phase-out dates.

# Government department name change

The government department responsible for administering the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and the regulations under the Act; the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, is now called the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC).



## Australian Government

### Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

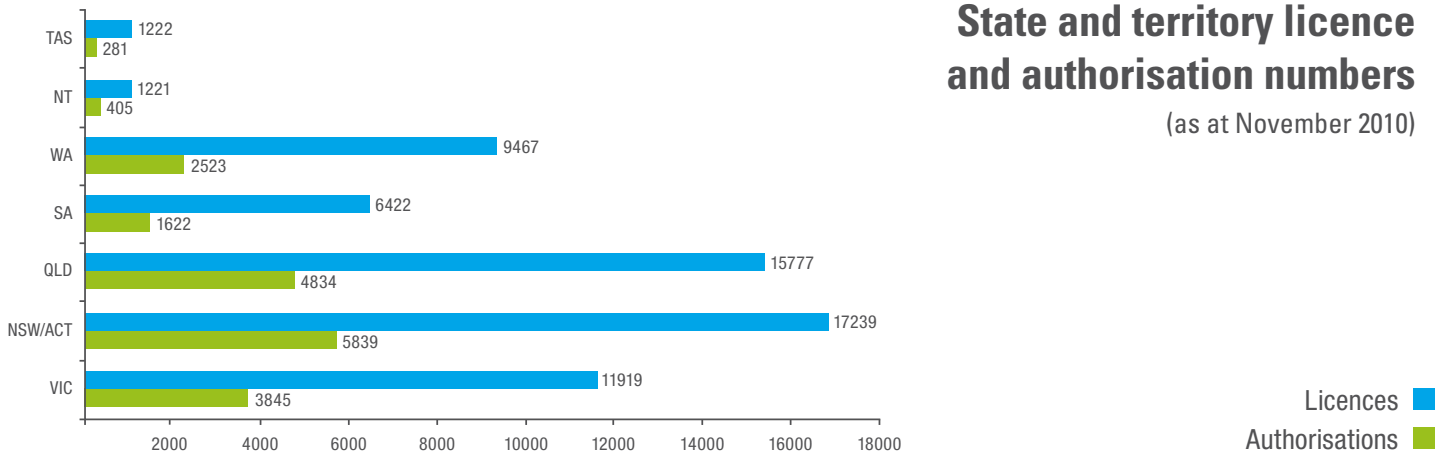
The Hon. Tony Burke MP was appointed Australian Government Minister for the department on 14 September 2010.

Information regarding end-use controls under the Act and Regulations can be found on the department's website at [www.environment.gov.au/rac](http://www.environment.gov.au/rac)

## ARC participates in Australian Standards development

The ARC is representing its member associations and permit holders on the Australian Standards consultative committee for the review of AS1677.1 'Refrigerating systems – Refrigeration classification' and 1677.2 'Refrigeration systems – Safety requirements for fixed applications'.

The review commenced in October 2010 and is expected to take about 18 months.



## State and territory licence and authorisation numbers

(as at November 2010)

Licences ■  
Authorisations ■

# Have any of your contact details changed?



## Prefer email?

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

When your business contact details change, unfortunately, you don't get a checklist to make sure you notify all customers, suppliers and other business contacts of your new details. Maintaining the lines of communication is critical in today's business environment – not to mention a lawful requirement, particularly in regards to your ARC licence/s.

Changes such as phone numbers, faxes, addresses or emails, together with advice on new equipment or new licensed staff are required to be updated with the ARC. For your convenience you can update your details directly on our easy online facility at [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org)

If you already have your user name and password simply click onto the red flashing icon at the top left hand corner of the ARC

homepage Online Applications & Change of Details.

If you haven't yet requested your user name and password, contact an ARC Customer Service team member on 1300 88 44 83. Have your RTA or RHL number handy and you'll be given your user name and password in a matter of minutes.

