



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities



Proposed regulatory change – Request for feedback

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is proposing to strengthen the RAC licence scheme by enhancing the current licence requirements for decommissioning RAC equipment.

Currently, Regulation 111 of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 has an exemption for individuals who are decommissioning Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) equipment to do so without a refrigerant handling licence. The exemption is subject to a condition that such individuals must be supervised by a person who is either a holder of a qualified person's licence or a restricted refrigerant handling licence.

The department is proposing to remove this exemption from Regulation 111. The proposal will require all individuals who are decommissioning RAC equipment to hold a qualified person's licence or a restricted refrigerant handling licence and, as a result, strengthen the RAC licence scheme ensuring that anybody handling fluorocarbon refrigerant is licensed.

This change would require that individuals who apply for a restricted refrigerant handling licence can demonstrate that they are competent to do decommissioning work. The competency or skill level is envisaged to be determined through industry endorsed and departmental approved refrigerant recovery training.

The proposed regulatory change would coincide with the release of recoverer training and assessment, which will support those who will be most affected by the proposed change. Individuals and industry that will be most affected by this change include: transitional refrigerant recoverer licence holders and people they are supervising, individuals who are working at auto parts recycling businesses, vehicle dismantlers, waste disposal industry and local council waste transfer stations.

The department is seeking your feedback on the proposed changes. In particular the department wants to know the reasons for any objections you may have to the changes. Written submissions can be lodged by emailing RAC@environment.gov.au, faxing to 02 6274 1610 or posting your submissions to:

DSEWPaC
Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team
Attention: RAC team
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Alternatively, you can contact the RAC team on 02 6275 9002 and give your feedback verbally. Submissions must be lodged by close of business on **30 April 2012**.

In this issue

- ✓ Proposed regulatory change – Request for feedback
- ✓ New instructional videos on ARC website – making renewals quicker and easier
- ✓ Shipping reefers
- ✓ Equivalent carbon price for synthetic greenhouse gases
- ✓ Your business is wanted – ARC online directory attracting record visitors
- ✓ New ARC Field Officer for South Australia
- ✓ ARC representing the RAC industry
- ✓ New Board members for ARC's 'RAC industry Board'
- ✓ F-Gas regulation in Europe - Update

Equivalent carbon price for synthetic greenhouse gases

An equivalent carbon price will be applied to all imports and manufacture of synthetic greenhouse gases from 1 July 2012. This will include imports of manufactured products containing synthetic greenhouse gases.

The price will apply to bulk refrigerants and refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, including domestic, commercial and vehicle air conditioners and domestic and commercial refrigerators and freezers.

The equivalent carbon price is based on the carbon price and the global warming potential of each gas relative to carbon dioxide. The price will be paid at the point of import or manufacture of the gas.

As the equivalent carbon price applies to gases imported from 1 July 2012, their price should not increase before this time. If your supplier claims that any price increase before then is attributable to the equivalent carbon price, you are encouraged to contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), which may require the business to substantiate its claims.

Visit www.accc.gov.au and click on 'Carbon price claims: be accurate' in the Hot Topics section.

Please note: only businesses that import (or manufacture) synthetic greenhouse gases need to take action. If your business is in this category you will need to be licensed with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities that administers the equivalent carbon price under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management legislation. Visit www.environment.gov.au and click on 'Atmosphere', then 'Ozone and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases' in the menu to read more.

If you use these gases or work with products containing these gases you don't need to do anything, other than be aware the equivalent carbon price will be applied to gases imported or manufactured after 1 July 2012.

The application of an equivalent carbon price is intended to encourage businesses and consumers to have their equipment properly installed by a licensed technician and to establish a regular maintenance program.

Synthetic greenhouse gases generally have high global warming potentials, in the range of 140 to 23,900 times that of carbon dioxide. They can also persist in the atmosphere for many years, in one case 3000 years or more.

For more information about the government's administration of synthetic greenhouse gases, including the list of gases affected and how to calculate the equivalent carbon price, visit: www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/sgg

For more information about the carbon price package visit the Clean Energy Future website: www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/clean-energy-future/our-plan

Shipping reefers

The Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is aware of recent international incidents where the compressors on refrigerated containers or reefers have exploded. The cause of the explosions appears to be contaminated gas in the cooling units with the suspected contaminant being methyl chloride. The department has been in contact with its South East Asian counterparts who are also aware of the industry's concerns about this matter.

The department would like to assure industry members that it is not aware of any information that would lead it to be concerned about the purity and the quality of fluorocarbon refrigerant gas that is available in Australia.

New instructional videos on ARC website – making renewals quicker and easier

With over 85 per cent of applications/renewals now completed online, the majority of licence and authorisation holders are taking the quick and easy option to maintaining their licence or authorisation.

For people new to the licence scheme, those who haven't renewed for a couple of years, or if you don't use computers very often, the ARC has included new instructional videos for completing online renewals and applications for both RHLs and RTAs.

These videos provide a step-by-step guide to each online RTA and RHL process – application, renewal and change of details. Each page in the process is outlined – both in writing and by demonstration. At the moment there is no sound, however we are looking to include voice-over narration in the future.

The videos can be found on the 'Online Applications & Change of Details' page on the ARC website http://www.arctick.org/online_services.php

The online application/renewal instructional videos now means you no longer have to take the time to call the ARC help desk to get your questions answered, ensuring your renewal will be processed in the quickest time possible.

For people without access to a computer, paper forms will still be available through the ARC help desk. Help desk staff can be contacted during normal business hours on 1300 88 44 83.



Your business is wanted!

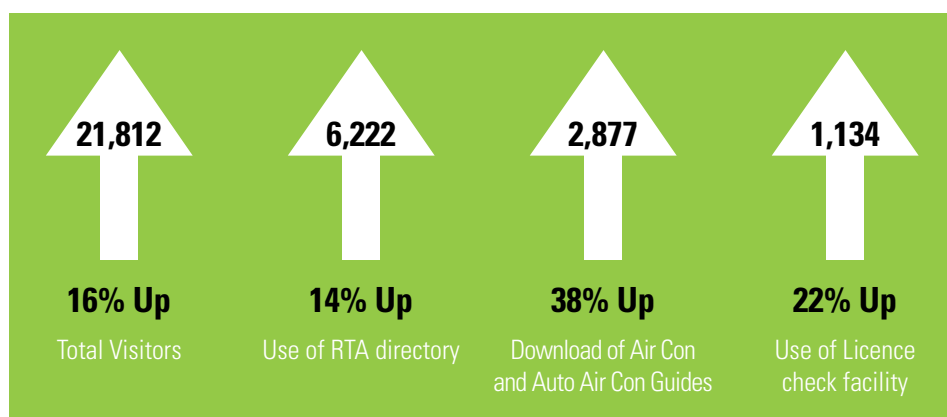
ARC online business directory attracting record visitors

A record number of people visited our consumer website www.lookforthetick.com.au this summer.

The website is an important tool to drive consumers to licence and authorisation holders – generating new business.

The ARC communications strategy raises consumer awareness of the licence scheme and how licence and authorisation holders are competent, informed and have the appropriate equipment to deliver a quality service.

Snap shot of ARC consumer website action between 25 Dec 2011 and 6 Feb 2012



New ARC Field Officer for South Australia

Isidoro Sapio has joined the ARC's South Australian office as a Field Officer. Isi will be working with Senior Field Officer Greg Watts to perform Audits and assist with licence and authorisation compliance throughout South Australia.

Isi has over 30 years' experience in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry including hands-on technical experience – both at large organisations like Spotless and Airmaster Australia and as an owner-operator. Isi also has experience training and supervising apprentices and tradesmen in the field.

Isi's experience and training will be of benefit to businesses when they are audited and he is looking forward to assisting the RAC sector to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

ARC representing the RAC industry

The ARC is once again representing the refrigeration and air conditioning industry hosting a stand at the 2012 Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Building Services Exhibition (ARBS) this May in Melbourne.

With the entire HVAC&R sector coming together for this event, the ARC felt it was important to be there to support the sector and reinforce the importance of a successful licence scheme to a healthy RAC sector.

At the ARC stand you will be able to pick up codes of practice booklets for RAC (both stationary and auto), various ARC marketing materials and application and renewal forms. As well, ARC Field Officers will be on hand to answer questions regarding the Audit process.

Make sure to drop by and say hello and we look forward to seeing you at ARBS in May.





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 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

New Board members for ARC's 'RAC industry Board'

The ARC welcomes Peter Blanshard and Kevin Lee to the ARC Board. Peter and Kevin were elected to the ARC Board of Directors at the November 2011 ARC Annual General Meeting, taking over from departing Board members Gary Kenworthy (ARWA) and Peter Taylor (MTAA).

Peter Blanshard is the CEO of Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers (IAME) and represents the automotive sector on the ARC Board.



Peter Blanshard

Kevin Lee is part of the Executive Management Committee at Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia (AREMA) and represents the stationary RAC sector on the ARC Board.



Kevin Lee

The ARC's RAC industry board comes from the ARC membership and is representative of the RAC industry. The board consists of three directors responsible for the stationary sector and three directors responsible for the automotive sector. The ARC CEO is the executive director.

F-Gas regulation in Europe - Update

Similar to the regulation of fluorocarbon gas in Australia under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, Europe has its own regulations in place to minimise fluorocarbon refrigerant (known in Europe as f-gas) emissions into the atmosphere.

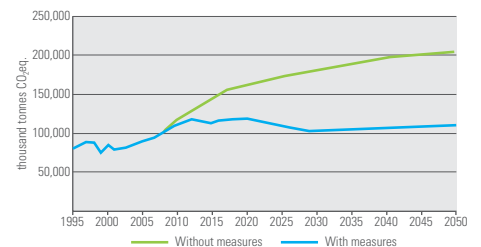
It is valuable to keep an eye on regulations that affect the RAC industry overseas, as it may influence industry practices in Australia.

The European Union's regulations aim to improve leak-tightness of equipment containing f-gases. Measures include: labelling of equipment containing f-gases, training and certification of personnel and companies handling these types of gases, containment and proper recovery.

Importantly, the EU's regulations focus on avoiding leaks and ensuring proper recovery of high global warming potential f-gases from equipment still using them.

The below graph highlights the effectiveness of regulating the use of f-gas in Europe and compares f-gas emissions 'with regulations' and 'without'.

Australia's RAC permit scheme and the use of licensed technicians and authorised businesses also highlights the importance of leak avoidance and the recovery of refrigerant. Visit www.arctick.org and click on the Legislation and Regulation tab to read more.



Projections of F-gas emissions in the EU without and with the measures in the F-gas Regulation and the MAC Directive