



COOLCHANGE

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New energy labelling for air conditioners

New energy efficiency requirements for air conditioners have been published, including a major format change to the Energy Rating Label.

Under the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012*, the new Zoned Energy Rating Label (ZERL) will be mandatory on new air conditioners from 1 April 2020.

Information Sessions

If you install an air conditioner or assist people to choose a new air conditioner for their home or small business, the Australian Government is offering free information sessions on how to read the new label and explain it to your customers. Using the new label, you can help people make a more informed choice about the most efficient heating or cooling system for their climate, and help your customers save money on running costs. The sessions will also prepare you for answering questions about expected energy use of air conditioners or where someone has seen the ZERL in stores.

Regulatory changes and transition

Part of the regulatory changes include the introduction of regulation for portable air conditioners, excluding evaporative systems. These portable units will also require a ZERL to be displayed on the product in stores. The new regulations commence on 1 April 2020, but the current Energy Rating Label and the new ZERL may both be in stores for the next 5 years, so it is important to understand the transitional arrangements.

Session details

- **Canberra:** Thursday 22 August
- **Brisbane:** Monday 2 September
- **Sydney:** Tuesday 3 September
- **Melbourne:** Wednesday 4 September
- **Hobart:** Thursday 5 September
- **Perth:** Tuesday 17 September
- **Adelaide:** Wednesday 18 September

Register your interest

Email your name, organisation, contact details and preferred location to energyrating@environment.gov.au. We will send information on how to book your seats once venues are confirmed.

For more information visit www.energyrating.gov.au

ARC rolls
out licensing
'smart cards'

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Cybercrime costs the Australian economy over \$4.5 billion annually (\$120 billion globally) and is considered one of the top emerging risks for the 21st century.

For the 95,000-plus refrigeration and air conditioning permit holders, ARC has in place data protection practices in-line with the Australian Government Information Security Manual produced by the Australian intelligence agency Australian Signals Directorate.

Our staff are trained on the importance of confidentiality and maintaining the privacy and security of permit holders' information.

We are committed to protecting your data and privacy by complying with the Commonwealth *Privacy Act*, which sets out the standards for the way organisations collect, store and disclose personal information.

The government website www.business.gov.au provides useful advice for businesses about data protection for you and your customers.

ARC rolls out licensing 'smart cards'

Refrigerant handling licence (RHL) cards now have a 'smart card' feature which allows licence holders to use their mobile phones to scan their cards for quick access to the ARC website and a variety of useful resources including:

- code of practice downloads
- fact sheets
- permit condition check information
- renewal information
- plus, much more.

The new RHL smart cards use QR code technology and will act as a 'virtual toolbox' for technicians. They are currently being distributed free of charge on approval of new RHL applications or renewals.

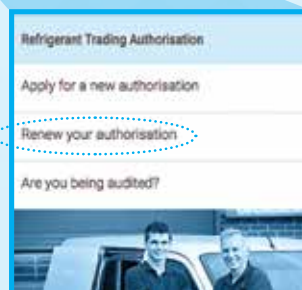


Renewing your permit soon? Double check before you submit

Using the online application and renewal facility at www.arctick.org is a quick and effective way to renew or reapply for your permit. However, there are two key areas where permit holders sometimes get caught up.

1. Existing permit holders applying for a new permit, instead of renewing

If you hold a current permit and it's coming up for renewal, the ARC will send you two reminder notices, including links to the online application/renewal facility. When renewing online make sure you click on the correct section of the website. See below image for a guide. Renewing your permit rather than submitting a new application will save you time and streamline your renewal process.



2. Businesses with an RTA and RHL renewing the wrong permit

Businesses that hold a current refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA), and have employees with current refrigerant handling licences (RHL), need to be careful not to renew the wrong permit. This is particularly relevant for owner-operator businesses where one person holds both permits. Make sure you check the reminder notice you receive from the ARC, it will identify the specific permit that is due for renewal.

IMPORTANT: When you are renewing an RHL or RTA and you are not sure if you chose the correct permit, or if your payment went through correctly, do not complete another application. Contact the ARC on 1300 884 483 to confirm. The ARC can check if you have applied for the appropriate permit and paid the correct fee.

15 million tonnes of CO₂ stopped from entering our atmosphere

Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) has prevented the equivalent of over 10 earth-sized balloons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere since its inception in 1993.

RRA was formed in 1993 and is the industry funded not-for-profit organisation established to recover, reclaim and destroy ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants. Kylie Farrelley, General Manager of RRA, says Australia is a world leader in recovering, reclaiming and destroying surplus and unwanted refrigerants. We've essentially taken 3 million cars off the road, or offset the emissions of 1 million households," says Kylie Farrelley.

"We are extremely proud of this achievement and congratulate our industry on all the work that has been done.

"Thanks to the efforts of the global refrigeration and air-conditioning community, the ozone layer has continued to recover. It is predicted that the Antarctic ozone hole will have healed by 2060, reducing harmful UV radiation.

"This is a direct result of phasing out chlorofluorocarbons and the diligence of the industry to ensure the recovery and destruction of contaminated and unwanted refrigerants. This is something our industry should be very proud of.

"However, the rate of recovery effectiveness in Australia is estimated at 49%, meaning that there is still much that could be done to further reduce global warming emissions. The onus of recovery still rests on contractors to return refrigerants for destruction. Whilst many do the right thing, it is apparent not everyone is aware of or complies with the legislation. Due to this, substantial quantities of high global warming potential refrigerants still escape, impacting on the environment and our way of life.

"Refrigeration and air conditioning technologies have a presence in nearly every part of modern-day life. They are in the cars we drive, help to preserve our food, keep our offices and homes comfortable, even keep blood fresh for transfusions and allow the manufacture of pharmaceuticals; their presence is ubiquitous."

To find out more, visit www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au

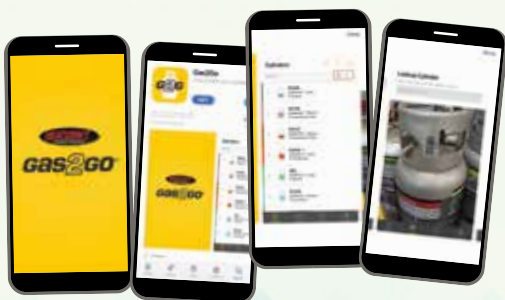
Aussie innovation saves technicians time on the job

Kirby (formerly Heatcraft Australia) has released a Gas2Go Cylinder Management App.

The leak test alert App allows you to:

- create and record cylinder leak test records
- geo-locate a cylinder for quick identification and record its location via a bar coding scanner
- transfer ownership between technicians and add activity notes against each cylinder
- be alerted when cylinders are due to be returned to reduce the risk of lost cylinders
- be alerted when quarterly cylinder tests and reporting are due.

To help meet permit obligations, the App can assist with maintaining refrigerant records and also be used to record fill weights. The Gas2Go App is available for the latest versions of iOS and Android, is free to download and available to all Kirby customers with a smart@ccess account.



Apprentice fridgie takes out gold

Australian RAC apprentice Patrick Brennan won the gold medal at the WorldSkills Global Skills Challenge held in Melbourne in April.

The WorldSkills Global Skills Challenge included 500 competitors and officials from 16 different countries taking part in 24 different skill competitions.

The event was hosted in several Victorian TAFE institutes including Holmesglen Institute, Kangan Institute and RMIT University.

Patrick Brennan, who works for Tony Stephens Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, and studies at TAFE Queensland, competed against RAC apprentices from nine different countries.

Not only did Patrick win the gold medal, he also won Best in Nation for Australia, for the highest score within the Australian team.

Patrick is now a part of the WorldSkills Australia Skillaroo team heading to Kazan, Russia later this year to compete at the WorldSkills International.

On behalf of everyone at the ARC, we wish Patrick and the rest of the Skillaroo team the best of luck.



UPDATE: Changes to Victorian plumbing regulations

The Plumbing Regulations 2018 introduced a major change to the Victorian Building Authority's (VBA) regulation of refrigerated air-conditioning work (RAC).

RAC work has now been elevated to a class of work in its own right. For applicants for VBA registration or licensing in this class, it is no longer an eligibility requirement to hold the mechanical services work class. The VBA still requires compliance certificates for RAC work totalling \$750 or greater. Only practitioners licensed by the VBA in the RAC work class may issue a compliance certificate for this work.

For further information please visit www.vba.vic.gov.au or contact the VBA on **1300 815 127**.

ARC at the HIA Melbourne Home Show

In May, the ARC exhibited at the HIA Melbourne Home Show.

This event attracted people looking to build or renovate their homes or offices and included many people interested in refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) services.

ARC was on hand to answer questions and educate visitors on the RAC permit scheme and highlight the importance of using appropriately licensed technicians to install, service, repair and decommission RAC systems. We provided consumer-specific education materials and handouts on:

- the benefits of using licensed technicians
- the importance of regular maintenance and getting a licensed technician to check your heating and cooling on a regular basis
- important questions to ask before buying an air conditioner
- the illegality of 'topping up' RAC systems without, first, checking for leaks and repairing them.

We also spoke with a number of permit holders at the event who were very supportive of the ARC being there and promoting the permit scheme to consumers. Thank you to all permit holders who dropped by the stand to say hello.

ARC helps celebrate World Refrigeration Day with technicians

ARC Field Officers were on-site at various Kirby (formerly Heatcraft) branches across Australia on World Refrigeration Day, Wednesday 26 June.

Kirby coincided World Refrigeration Day with the launch of their Kirby Apprentice Fund, established to strengthen the technical skills of the HVAC&R industry. They sold Kirby t-shirts with all profits going towards providing tools and training to HVAC&R apprentices. In addition, toolbox talks were held at select branches where guests were able to have their leak detectors tested for free. ARC Field Officers were also on hand to answer questions related to the refrigeration and air conditioning permit scheme.

ARC on 'The Air Conditioning Podcast'

On 17 April, ARC appeared as a guest on the 'The Air Conditioning Podcast'.

This podcast, recorded in Adelaide, is hosted by two RAC technicians who informally discuss topics related to air conditioning. Guests include experts from the manufacturing sector, suppliers, wholesalers and people working in the trade.

The ARC episode discussed:

- the RAC permit scheme
- the origins and responsibilities of the ARC
- certificate II qualifications and the split system licence
- enforcement and more broader industry issues and trends.

Episodes can be downloaded from iTunes, Spotify and Stitcher. Visit www.airconditioningpodcast.com to read more or listen to the podcast.

Applications for non-grandfathered import quota due by 31 August 2019

A global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) production and imports was agreed under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 2016.

Australia's phase-down of imports of HFCs is underway. Importers are required to hold quota for all imports of bulk HFCs from 1 January 2018. The annual import quota will gradually reduce to 15% of the baseline by 2036. Established importers are allocated quota relative to their market share (grandfathered quota). If a new importer wants to enter the market, or an existing importer wants to increase its imports, they can seek to purchase quota from another quota holder or apply for an allocation of non-grandfathered quota. **Applications for non grandfathered quota must be made by 31 August** of the year before each two year quota period starts. More information on licensing and quota is available at www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/licences-and-reporting/hfcs-pfcs-sf6-nf3



AIR-CON NEED A SERVICE OR REPAIR?

A FULL REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING LICENCE HOLDER IS QUALIFIED TO:

- ✓ INSTALL
- ✓ SERVICE
- ✓ DIAGNOSE
- ✓ REPAIR

A RESTRICTED LICENCE HOLDER IS ONLY QUALIFIED TO:

- ✓ INSTALL
- ✗ SERVICE
- ✗ DIAGNOSE
- ✗ REPAIR

FIND A FULL LICENCE HOLDER

SEARCH NOW



Social media and online advertising = win for licence holders

The results of ARC's summer advertising campaign have been fantastic for permit holders, with almost 90,000 consumers visiting the refrigeration and air conditioning permit scheme's consumer website www.lookforthetick.com.au between January 2019 and March 2019.



The campaign's aim was to connect potential customers to authorised businesses and licensed technicians.

In addition, the campaign aimed to educate people on the benefits of using appropriately licensed technicians, and the damaging effects of HFC, HCFC and CFC refrigerants on the environment.

Using cost-effective marketing strategies including search engine marketing, online advertising, Google AdWords and Facebook advertising, the campaign achieved results in the key areas highlighted below.

- Increased visits to www.lookforthetick.com.au for information on the RAC permit scheme, and the importance of using appropriately licensed technicians and authorised businesses.
- Consumers used the RTA directory to identify the RAC services they required and find authorised businesses in their area.
- Consumers used the licence check facility to check the status and type of licence held by a technician.
- Increased downloads of information guides to help people looking to buy air conditioners/refrigerators or get their systems serviced, repaired or decommissioned (both auto and stationary). The guides provide helpful tips and highlight the importance of checking that a technician has the right type of licence.

Auto aftermarket expo highlights

ARC recently exhibited at the Australian Automotive Aftermarket and Collision Repair Expo in Melbourne.

This event attracted a variety of visitors from the automotive, collision repair and recycling industries, as well as trainers and apprentices.

The main question we received from visitors related to the transition from R134a refrigerant to R1234yf, and what this means for businesses. There are significant differences between the two refrigerants. Technicians need to be aware of the following:

- R1234yf has a global warming potential (GWP) of <1.
- R1234yf is not a scheduled substance so does not require a refrigerant handling licence (RHL) to use or a refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) to purchase. R134a is a scheduled substance so a RHL and RTA is required.
- R1234yf is rated A2L mildly flammable. R134a is non-flammable.

A voluntary accreditation is available for the use of low GWP refrigerants called the ARC Green Scheme Accreditation. This accreditation program is independent of the RAC permit scheme, provides a pathway for technicians to upskill, and facilitates the safe use of low GWP refrigerants and technologies into the industry. ARC Green Scheme Accreditation is a great way for technicians to demonstrate their professionalism to current and future employers, and for contractors to 'future proof' their business and technicians.

To read more visit www.arcltd.org.au/green-scheme-accreditation/

The Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) has also recently released the online flammable refrigerants (stationary) safety guide available at www.pointsbuild.com.au/airah

Non-compliance can equal loss of permit

Last financial year 84 permit holders were unable to renew their permits due to ongoing non-compliance issues.

An essential part of any permit scheme is to verify compliance. In the case of the RAC permit scheme, losing the ability to earn a living is a huge penalty. One that could easily be avoided by doing the right thing. ARC conducts up to 6,000 permit checks and education visits a year and works with State licensing authorities to ensure people do the right thing and work within the law.

RTA holders should contact the ARC if they have questions about non-compliance on **1300 884 483** or via email.enquire@arctick.org



Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Advisory body

The Australian Refrigeration Council and the Department of the Environment and Energy have established an industry advisory body (IAB) under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Management Program.

The role of the IAB is to ensure the ARC and the Department receive industry-specific expert advice to inform implementation of the RAC permit scheme.

Topics and issues for advice will include:

- the introduction of new gases or equipment used in the Australian industry
- trends or developments in similar industries internationally which are relevant to the Australian industry
- improvements to permit or training requirements to reduce the risk of emissions
- proposed changes to the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 and implications for industry.

The IAB does not have a governing role in administering the RAC permit scheme or any decision-making powers. ARC is responsible for the ongoing management of the IAB, including acting as the secretariat. After an industry-wide call for participants, the following core members have been selected to comprise the IAB:

- Kevin O'Shea (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors' Association) – Chairman
- Ian Stangroome (Vehicle Air Conditioning Specialists of Australia)
- Dale Imlach (Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia)
- Peter Wilkinson (Mitsubishi Electric)
- Steve Smith (TAFE NSW)
- Phil Wilkinson (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating)
- Rob Beggs (Temperzone and Chair of Standards Australia Committee ME-006)

An introductory meeting was held on 9 May in Canberra where important issues facing the RAC sector and their potential influence on the permit scheme were discussed, including refrigerant recovery from end of life systems, compliance and training. The ARC and the Department used this advice to assist with the development of strategies and actions for delivery of the permit scheme.

Permit condition check video

A short video is available to help refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) holders better understand what is involved in a permit condition check.

The video, developed by ARC, complements the existing information we provide to RTA holders on permit obligations and provides an alternative to reading information from a computer or a hand out. A permit condition check is a normal part of the conditions of holding an RTA. It is a great opportunity to talk with an ARC Field Officer who can provide advice on:

- what you need to do to meet the conditions of your permit
- how to maintain your equipment
- your refrigerant risk management plan
- your refrigerant and equipment records and how to best manage these tasks.

Having this conversation with an ARC Field Officer will help identify areas that may need greater action. This will allow you to get on with your business, confident that your RTA conditions are being met. To view the video visit www.arctick.org/refrigerant-trading-authorisation/permit-condition-check-audit/



Refrigerant Reclaim Australia appoints new GM

Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) has announced Kylie Farrelley as the organisation's new General Manager.

As of 1st July 2019, Kylie took over from incumbent General Manager Michael Bennett, who stepped down in June after serving the organisation since 1997. Kylie's appointment will play a critical role in furthering the recovery, reclamation and destruction of ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants to further reduce harmful emissions.

Kylie has been affiliated with RRA since 2008 as an industry representative and was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2016. With nearly 20 years at previous employer Arkema, Kylie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role as General Manager.