



# COOLCHANGE

## In this issue

COVID-19 update: Guidance and financial support for businesses

Celebrate the superheros of the cold on World Refrigeration Day

Sustaining society during a crisis

Penalty increase for offences under the Ozone Act and Regulations

Training review: Helping to shape the future of training... and our industry

Permit check video gives you the advantage

R U OK? Mental health support available now

Air con equipment company fined for using disposable cylinders and HCFC import offences

Why our permit scheme matters

Tick it off with the 'compliance checklist'



Sustaining society during a crisis  
> page 2

## COVID-19 update: Guidance and financial support for businesses

To ensure licensed technicians and authorised businesses are aware of the information and financial entitlements available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic, below is a selected list of government-related support.

### Employer/employee support

Information on reducing the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace can be found on the Safe Work Australia website at [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces)

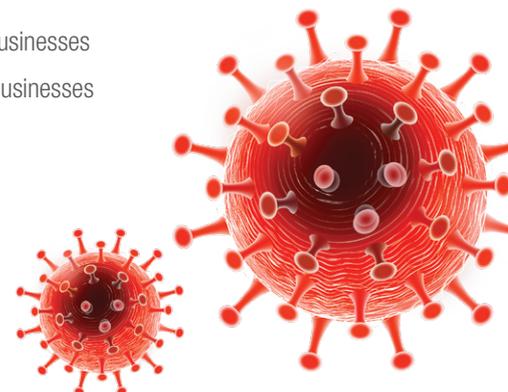
The Fair Work Commission has published useful information on workplace entitlements during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit [www.coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au)

### Business support

The Australian Government's Business Hotline 13 28 46 provides specialist advice to support small and medium businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below is a list of the key financial support available to businesses. To read more about each category visit [www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses](http://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses)

- JobKeeper payment
- Cash flow support for small and medium businesses
- Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses
- Increasing the instant asset write-off
- Backing business investment
- Supporting apprentices and trainees
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Support for sole traders



>> continued page 4



## Celebrate the superheroes of the cold on World Refrigeration Day

26 June 2020 is World Refrigeration Day and it couldn't have come at a better time.

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry is critical to modern life and has a profound impact on the community. Just think, a blood transfusion or surgery cannot be performed without the work of a qualified refrigeration and air conditioning technician, not to mention the importance of technicians to industries like food transport and scientific research. This influence has become even more apparent as we have adjusted our lives to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and seen the importance of ensuring our medical services and food supply chains continue to operate.

World Refrigeration Day aims to raise awareness about the role the refrigeration and air conditioning industry plays in supporting modern life and society. Glenn Evans, CEO of the ARC, said the role of our industry is vital, particularly during a pandemic. "When you consider that surgical operations can't happen without refrigeration facilities, or that there'd be no transport of meat or other perishables, you start to realise we'd be in a whole lot of trouble without the men and women of the refrigeration and air conditioning sector."

# Sustaining society during a crisis

During the COVID-19 pandemic, seeing supermarket shelves bare and lines of people bulk-buying food really drove home the importance of the food supply chain during a crisis.



Tranzfreeze has over 30 years of experience in the refrigerated transport industry. L-R Gregory Hiam, Carlos Tavares, Markus Woodgate & Eric Slemmermann.

How does the food end up on shelves, in freezers and/or fridges fresh and ready for you? Refrigerated transport, that's how. One business champion making sure our food is delivered fresh through manufacturing, servicing and maintaining transport refrigeration equipment is Tranzfreeze. The ARC asked Tranzfreeze owner Eric Slemmermann a few questions recently about his work and the changes his business has seen since the start of COVID-19.

### How long have you been in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry and what kind of work do you do?

Tranzfreeze has operated for 31 years. We are a local manufacturer that specialises in all sizes of refrigerated vans, utes and rigid truck bodies. Our main customers come from the food service and refrigerated rental industries but we have many more including florists, passenger and pet transport. We employ six licensed technicians, including myself.

### Once COVID-19 hit, did work drop, increase or stay the same?

We did see a drop in demand for refrigerated trucks utilised for food delivery to restaurants, pubs, clubs and events as these businesses had been forced to temporarily close. However, we saw an increase in demand for refrigerated vans and utes.

### Has COVID-19 caused you to change the way you work?

Yes. We take this very seriously as we need to do our part in looking after the wellbeing of our staff, suppliers, customers and our local community. However, it goes without saying that we need to keep our doors open as well. We had to restrict entry to the office and ask customers to communicate over the phone or online. This is not ideal but everyone seems to understand and co-operate.

All deliveries, including vehicles that are dropped off, need to follow our "zero contact policy". All face-to-face contact is discouraged. We regularly disinfect all touchpoints on vehicles coming in and out of our factory. In addition, we carry out constant disinfection of touchpoints in the factory and office, so that we reduce the chances of cross-contamination. We have also implemented the 4m<sup>2</sup> social distancing guidelines in the factory, along with signage reminding staff about this requirement.

### Any final messages to the industry and your customers?

Regardless of the challenges we currently face and the changes to the way we operate, we will continue to do our part in strengthening the cold food chain which results in food being delivered to Australian homes, institutions and businesses, safely and on time.

# Penalty increase for offences under the Ozone Act and Regulations

The penalties for offences under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* (the Act) and the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* (the Regulations) will increase from 1 July 2020.

Under most Commonwealth laws, financial penalties are expressed in terms of 'penalty units' instead of dollar figures. On 1 July 2020, the value of a penalty unit will increase from \$210 to \$222.

The change is the result of the automatic indexation of the penalty unit amount under section 4AA of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth). The increase is designed to ensure that the real value of a penalty unit is maintained.

This increase applies to all offences under the Act and Regulations, some of which are detailed below.

## Not holding the relevant permit

A person who imports, exports or manufactures fluorocarbon refrigerant (either in bulk or pre-charged into equipment) without the appropriate licence (or exemption) is committing an offence under section 13(1) of the Act. A penalty of up to \$111,000 for an individual or \$555,000 for a corporation may apply.

Under Regulation 111(1), it is an offence to handle refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) equipment containing fluorocarbon refrigerant without a refrigerant handling licence (RHL) (note Regulation 111 describes some circumstances where an RHL may not be required). A penalty of up to \$2,220 for an individual or \$11,100 for a corporation may apply.

Under Regulation 112(2), it is an offence to acquire, possess or dispose of bulk fluorocarbon refrigerant without a refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) (note Regulation 112 describes some circumstances where an RTA may not be required). A penalty of up to \$2,220 for an individual or \$11,100 for a corporation may apply.

Under Regulation 113A(1), it is an offence for a person to make representations that the person can provide services involving the acquisition, disposal, storage, use or handling of refrigerant without either holding an appropriate licence or engaging an appropriately licensed person to provide the service. A penalty of up to \$2,220 for an individual or \$11,100 for a corporation may apply.

## Unlawful discharge of scheduled refrigerants

It is an offence under section 45B(1) of the Act to act in a way that results in the unlawful discharge of ozone depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGG), including scheduled refrigerants. A penalty of up to \$66,600 for an individual or up to \$333,000 for a corporation may apply.

## Use of HCFC

It is an offence under section 45C(1) of the Act to use an HCFC that was manufactured or imported on or after 1 January 2020. A penalty of up to \$66,600 for an individual or up to \$333,000 for a corporation may apply.

## Breaching permit conditions

It is an offence under Regulation 136(1) for a RHL holder to breach a condition of their licence. A penalty of up to \$2,220 for an individual or \$11,100 for a corporation may apply.

It is an offence under Regulation 142(1) for a RTA holder to breach a condition of their authorisation. A penalty of up to \$11,100 for a corporation may apply.

## Effects of breaches on gaining future permits

Regulation 122 provides that a RAC industry permit (which includes RHLs and RTAs) should not be granted to a person who is not a fit and proper person to hold the permit or licence. In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person, relevant considerations include whether the person has been convicted of an offence under the Act or Regulations and whether the person has had a permit or licence cancelled.

A person who is not fit and proper may have their permit or licence refused on reapplication or, in accordance with Regulation 123, their permit or licence may be cancelled.

## Penalties for breach of civil penalty provisions

The increase to penalty units also applies in relation to breaches of civil penalty provisions under the Act and Regulations. Department page can be accessed via [www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/rac](http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/rac)

## Training review: Helping to shape the future of training... and our industry

A review of the training for refrigeration and air conditioning qualifications is underway. This review will ensure training is future-focused, and aligned with the safety and environmental needs of technicians and contractors.

An annual update to the Industry Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work 2020 is being conducted by Australian Industry Standards who coordinate Industry Reference Committees (IRC) to consider industry's skill requirements in the development and review of training packages.

Rod Cumming (ARC's General Manager, Compliance and Training) sits on the Light Vehicles IRC. This IRC focuses on automotive air conditioning training and is responsible for the AUR automotive retail, service and repair training package and the AUM automotive manufacturing training package. Noel Munkman (ARC's Technical and Training Manager) sits on the Electrotechnology IRC. This IRC is responsible for the UEE11 Electrotechnology training package which includes Certificate III in refrigeration and air conditioning.

Stakeholder feedback will be finalised and approved by the IRC, then submitted to the Australian Industry Skills Committee for final approval.

## Permit check video gives you the advantage

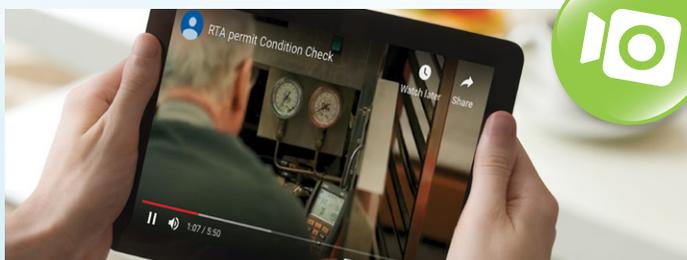
A short video is available on the ARC website to help refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) holders better understand what is involved in a permit condition check.

The video complements the existing information on permit condition checks and provides an alternative to reading from a computer or a hand out.

A permit condition check is a normal part of the conditions of holding a RTA and is a great opportunity to talk with an ARC Field Officer who can provide assistance and advice on:

- what you need to do to meet the conditions of your permit
- how to maintain your equipment
- your refrigerant risk management plan, and
- 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/](http://www.arctick.org/refrigerant-trading-authorisation/permit-condition-check-audit/)



## COVID-19 update: Guidance and financial support for businesses

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### Health support

The Department of Health has put together a useful FAQ section on COVID-19 and how to best manage your health during this time. Visit [www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Licensing update

The ARC continues to manage the refrigeration and air conditioning industry Permit Scheme on a 'business as usual' basis. To help minimise the risk to industry, the ARC has implemented the following temporary changes:

- Face-to-face permit condition checks have been replaced by electronic checks (desktop reviews) via email.
- The ARC reception area is currently closed to the public. If you need to drop off an application form or other documents, just call the ARC on **1300 884 483** or post to **ARC, Locked Bag 3033, Box Hill VIC 3128**. Alternatively, you can scan and email the documents to [enquire@arctick.org](mailto:enquire@arctick.org)

Importantly, the ARC Call Centre is still available to support permit holders during this pandemic. Speak to one of our Customer Service and Licensing employees by calling **1300 884 483** Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm (AEST). We're here to help.

## R U OK? Mental health support available now

Looking after your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic can play a big part in making sure you're able to do your job well and enjoy life outside of work.

Mental health issues can be serious but help is available.

- 'Head to Health' provides guidance on how to maintain good mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic [www.headtohealth.gov.au/covid-19-support](http://www.headtohealth.gov.au/covid-19-support)
- Beyond Blue is an Australian, independent non-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, suicide, anxiety disorders and other related mental disorders. They have a useful list of national helplines and websites for people to get the help they need [www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/national-help-lines-and-websites](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/national-help-lines-and-websites)
- Mates in Construction is another valuable resource, with a specific focus on tradespeople [www.matesinconstruction.org.au](http://www.matesinconstruction.org.au)

# Air con equipment company fined for using disposable cylinders and HCFC import offences

A Victorian company that imports, manufactures and supplies air conditioning equipment has been fined by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for using disposable cylinders to store R-22.

Disposable cylinders containing scheduled substances such as R-22 are banned in Australia, under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*.

Disposable cylinders cannot be refilled, which means a residual 'heel' amount of gas can remain in the containers and can enter the atmosphere once disposal of the cylinder occurs.

The company has also been fined for importing bulk hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) without a controlled substances licence. Importing HCFC without a licence is an offence under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

The substance, identified as HCFC-22/R-22, was supplied by an overseas equipment manufacturer to fill uncharged equipment it had shipped to the company. The company holds an equipment licence to import equipment charged with scheduled substances. However, a controlled substances licence and HCFC quota must be held to import or export bulk quantities of HCFC.

To read the full media release visit [www.awe.gov.au/news/media-releases/air-conditioning-company-fined-hcfc-importation-and-storage-offences](http://www.awe.gov.au/news/media-releases/air-conditioning-company-fined-hcfc-importation-and-storage-offences)



## Why our permit scheme matters

**US EPA releases new findings on health benefits due to reduced ozone depletion**

Have you ever wondered why the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) industry Permit Scheme exists? A new report released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides evidence of the benefit of the scheme and highlights your important contribution as a permit holder to positive outcomes for both human health and the environment.

The report *Stratospheric Ozone Protection and Human Health Benefits* uses the Atmospheric and Health Effects Framework model to assess the adverse human health effects associated with a depleted stratospheric ozone layer.

The Earth's stratospheric ozone layer acts as a protective shield from ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Ozone depleting substances reduce the ozone concentration in the stratosphere and weaken that protective shield.

Overexposure to UV poses a significant threat to human health and also interferes with environmental cycles. It can cause skin and eye damage and suppress the immune system. The EPA's scientific model shows that controls on ozone depleting substances, such as under the Montreal Protocol, is expected to prevent approximately 443 million cases of skin cancer, 2.3 million skin cancer deaths, and 63 million cataract cases for people in the United States born in the years 1890–2100.

The strengthening of the original Montreal Protocol with its subsequent amendments and adjustments accounts for a significant portion of these benefits, resulting in an estimated 230 million fewer skin cancers, 1.3 million fewer deaths, and 33 million fewer cataract cases than the original 1987 Montreal Protocol over the same period.

While this EPA report focuses specifically on the American population, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is working with the US to do similar modelling for Australia. These findings demonstrate why it is essential that the industry continues to comply with the RAC industry Permit Scheme.

You play an important role as a permit holder, helping to make the Earth a safer place for our current society and future generations. Together, we can reduce risks associated with the potential discharge of ozone depleting substances.

# Tick it off with the 'compliance checklist'

If you find yourself with some downtime, now might be a good opportunity to make sure all your licensing-related business is in order.

There are a number of important processes and actions refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) holders can take to ensure you are complying with the conditions of your RTA. Remember, any outstanding compliance issues or an expired RTA can affect your ability to buy refrigerant.

The compliance checklist below provides a useful reference for businesses and individuals. If you have any questions about this, or any other matter, contact the ARC on **1300 884 483** or email [enquire@arctick.org](mailto:enquire@arctick.org)

## RTA COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

### EQUIPMENT LIST

You are required to maintain quarterly records of inspection and maintenance testing of your leak detectors, vacuum pumps and refrigerant recovery units, ensuring they are working correctly.



Electronic leak detector



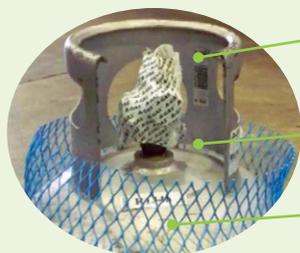
Vacuum pump



Refrigerant recovery unit

### REFRIGERANT GAS CYLINDERS

You are required to maintain a list of all refrigerant containers (cylinders) in your possession (and ownership) during each quarter throughout the year, including their test dates. In addition, maintain quarterly records that show you have checked your cylinders for leaks at least once during the quarter.



**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**

### RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

You are required to implement a risk management plan (RMP) specific to your business for the handling and storage of refrigerant. The RMP will help you identify potential risks of emitting refrigerant and measures to minimise those risks. You can download an RMP template on the ARC website at [www.arctick.org/RMP](http://www.arctick.org/RMP)



### REFRIGERANT RECORDS

You are required to maintain up-to-date records showing amounts of refrigerant purchased, recovered or sold (bulk amounts) during each quarter.



*Images used as examples only.*

### LICENSED STAFF LISTS

You are required to maintain a list of all employees at your organisation who hold a refrigerant handling licence. This list needs to include the name and licence number of these employees.

