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FACTSHEET

Following the Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice

The Australia and New Zealand Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2025 provides mandatory and best practice guidelines for ARC-licensed technicians to handle controlled refrigerant.

It was developed to reduce emissions of synthetic greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere. This is consistent with Australia's obligations as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol.

If you have an ARCTick licence, you must follow the Code of Practice

All ARCTick licence holders must follow the mandatory practices outlined in the Code of Practice, and consider the best practice suggestions. The Code of Practice, along with relevant standards, is listed in a determination referenced in the licence conditions in the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, and reflects regulatory and licence requirements, industry standards and improved work practices.

All technicians, and in particular those new to the industry, must reference this tool when working. If you do not have a copy of the Code of Practice at your work, you can view or download a copy from the ARC website www.arctick.org/licensing/codes-of-practice/.

ARC Field Engagement Officers will check to see that the Code of Practice is being followed by licensed technicians during audits of authorised businesses, so it is important that businesses and individual licence holders are familiar with its requirements.



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The Australia and New Zealand Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2025

The Australia and New Zealand Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2025 has 2 parts:

- **Part 1 – self-contained low charge systems** i.e. those systems that contain a controlled refrigerant charge of 2 kilograms or less and do not require any work to be done on the refrigeration system at the time of installation.
- **Part 2 – systems other than self-contained low charge systems** the Code of Practice applies to all refrigeration and air conditioning systems which use controlled refrigerant – including heat pumps and transport refrigeration and air conditioning systems (excluding motor vehicle air conditioning systems).

The Code of Practice provides guidance on the following work and requirements:

- General – personnel (ensuring technicians handling refrigerant are appropriately licensed), and refrigerant venting
- Design considerations
- Manufacture and assembly
- System installation procedures
- Evacuation procedures
- Refrigerant charging procedure
- Labelling and documentation
- Commissioning
- Maintenance, repair and decommissioning
- Advice to equipment owners and operators
- Change of refrigerant/lubricant procedure
- Safety group classifications
- Refrigerant recovery, recycling, reclamation and disposal
- Handling and storage of refrigerants.

It's good for the environment!

Following the Code of Practice will ensure you are helping to reduce emissions of ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere. Most air conditioning and refrigeration systems contain controlled refrigerant. This is an ozone-depleting substance and/or synthetic greenhouse gas. If released into the atmosphere, controlled refrigerant will contribute to global warming and in some cases damage the ozone layer. The ozone layer protects life on earth by absorbing ultra-violet (UV) radiation from the sun. UV radiation is linked to skin cancer, genetic damage and immune suppression in humans and other living organisms.

Discharging controlled refrigerant is illegal under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and penalties of up to \$145,600 for an individual or up to \$728,000 for a corporation may apply. Only ARC-licensed technicians can handle and trade controlled refrigerant in Australia.

About the ARC

The Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd (ARC) administers refrigerant handling licences and refrigerant trading authorisations on behalf of the Australian Government. They provide licences and authorisations to professionals in the refrigeration/air conditioning industry. To enquire about applying for a licence, visit www.arctick.org or call 1300 884 483.