



New State Regulation for Refrigerants Effective January 1, 2011

On January 1, 2011, a new California Air Resources Board regulation to minimize leaks of environmentally harmful refrigerants from non-residential refrigeration units took effect. The regulation, known as the Refrigerant Management Program, applies to larger industrial and commercial systems that use high global warming potential refrigerants – those typically used in supermarkets, cold storage warehouses, food processing plants and process cooling operations. The program builds on long established federal rules on refrigeration systems.

The Air Resources Board adopted the regulation in December 2009 under AB-32, California's Global Warming Solutions Act. Leaking refrigeration systems are California's single largest source of high-Global Warming Potential gases – compounds such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are hundreds to thousands of times more efficient at trapping the Earth's heat than carbon dioxide. Fixing refrigerant leaks is one of the most cost-effective ways for businesses to save money on costly refrigerants.

Beginning January 1, 2011, businesses with non-residential refrigeration systems with a refrigerant capacity of more than 50 pounds must fix leaks within 14 days of detection. These businesses must also keep on-site records of all leak repair work and other servicing of refrigeration systems, including receipts of refrigerant purchases. The regulation also affects any person who installs, services, or disposes any appliance using a high-GWP refrigerant or sells, distributes and/or reclaims high-GWP refrigerants. Businesses whose systems use only ammonia or carbon dioxide as refrigerants are not subject to the rule.

A brief summary of the regulation's January 2011 requirements for Leak Detection and Monitoring, Leak Repair and Recordkeeping is attached. Refer to ARB's website for the complete regulation and for future requirements.

Note that registration will be required for these refrigeration systems with a phased-in schedule beginning January 1, 2012.

The Refrigerant Management Program is currently being administered by the California Air Resources Board, not the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. For details on the Program please visit the California Air Resources Board's website <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/refrigerant-management-program> or email rmp@arb.ca.gov or call (916) 324-2517.

Refrigerant Management Program Requirements Effective January 1, 2011

Leak Detection & Monitoring (Section 95385)	<i>Refrigeration Systems with a Full Charge Greater Than or Equal to 2,000 Pounds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monthly for systems fully enclosed within a building or structure until Jan 1, 2012 ○ Every three months for non-enclosed systems or components ○ None for systems with automatic leak detection system (95385(a)(5) or 95385(a)(6)) • Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Install an automatic leak detection system by Jan. 1, 2012 if the refrigerant circuit, compressor, evaporator, condenser or other component with a high potential for leakage is fully enclosed within a building or structure
	<i>Refrigeration Systems with a Full Charge Greater Than or Equal to 200 Pounds, but Less Than 2,000 Pounds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Every 3 months ○ None for systems with automatic leak detection system (95385(a)(5) or 95385(a)(6))
	<i>Refrigeration Systems with a Full Charge Greater Than 50 Pounds, but Less Than 200 Pounds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual ○ None for systems with automatic leak detection system (95385(a)(5) or 95385(a)(6))
Leak Repair (Section 95386)	<i>Refrigeration Systems with a Full Charge Greater Than 50 Pounds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix all leaks within 14 days of detection • Refer to special repair provisions if leaks cannot be fixed within 14 days • Check system for leaks after repair • Use only U.S. EPA-certified technicians that hold C38 contractor's license
Recordkeeping (Section 95389)	<i>Refrigeration Systems with a Full Charge Greater Than 50 Pounds.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep all service records on site for at least 5 years for each refrigeration unit, including those concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leak inspections ○ Installation, calibration and annual audits of leak detection systems ○ Refrigerant purchases ○ Shipment of refrigerants for reclamation or destruction ○ Calculations, data and assumptions used to determine the refrigerant capacity. ○ Retrofit or retirement plans