



# COOLCHANGE

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## Global supply chain problems could affect HFC imports

Australian imports of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have been delayed due to COVID-19 and other issues.

The Australian Government has changed the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 (the Regulations) so that HFC importers aren't disadvantaged by shipping delays and sufficient HFCs will be available in 2022.

Without the changes, imports which were expected in 2021 that are now delayed until 2022 would have counted against importer's 2022 quota.

Affected HFC importers would have lost the amount of quota they did not import in 2021 as there was no provision to carry forward unused HFC quota into the following year. This would have reduced the amount of HFCs available in the Australian market and reduced future quota allocations for affected importers.

Imports that were expected in 2021, now delayed until 2022, will still be counted against the importer's 2021 quota.

Importers will be in the same position they would have been in if the delays had never occurred. The changes don't allow for imports to be more than the importer's regular HFC quota allocation for 2021 and 2022.

There are sufficient HFCs available in Australia to meet demand into 2022, even with transport delays. Prices for HFCs may rise due to increased transport costs, increased demand from other countries and increasing prices for HFC in China (where Australia sources almost all HFCs).

The HFC ~~phase-down~~ is an important part of Australia's emissions reduction commitment under the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Australia will remain compliant with the HFC phase-down commitments under the Montreal Protocol.



# Make your ARCTick number work for you

Displaying your refrigerant handling licence (RHL) or refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA) number is a condition of your authorisation with the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) to show that you're an authorised technician or business with the skills and qualifications to work in the sector.

You'll promote ARCTick and build customer confidence by displaying your number on all:

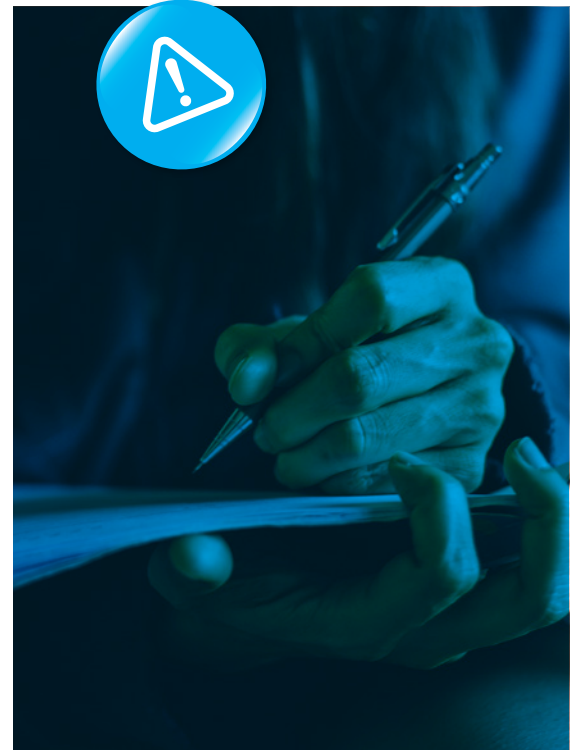
- advertising,
- signage,
- webpages and online advertisements,
- invoices, receipts and quotes, and
- any other medium where you are offering or advertising your services.



Remember, in addition to licences and regulation, the ARC can help you out with technical advice, educational resources and a range of marketing materials to promote your business.

Every summer, ARC's social media advertising campaign targets consumers planning to buy, install or have repairs done to their refrigerators, freezers and home or car air conditioners.

The 2021/22 program is currently underway and, based on previous years, should generate more than 50,000 visits to ARC's websites, including almost 5000 individual searches for a licensed technician through [www.lookforthetick.com.au](http://www.lookforthetick.com.au)



## DAWE and ABF officers seize \$200,000 worth of illegal refrigeration imports

More than \$200,000 worth of refrigeration equipment imported without a licence has been seized by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and Australian Border Force (ABF).

Investigations are continuing, however it's been reported that ABF officers apprehended the shipment in Melbourne back in May after a tip-off that the importer didn't have a licence under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989.

It appears the equipment was brought into Australia with certificates falsely stating that controlled refrigerant gas had been removed, allowing the items to be imported without a licence.

Upon examination of the shipment, DAWE and ABF officers discovered that a significant portion still contained controlled hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant gases.

# Ozone layer protection gives world a chance in climate crisis

Climate scientists have confirmed that the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer curbing the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has given the world a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5C as set out by the Paris Agreement.



CFCs and other ozone depleting chemicals are also potent greenhouse gases. Without this action to ban CFCs, the planet would have been facing up to 3.5C of warming, according to a recent article in scientific journal Nature.

The report refers to modelling by teams in the UK, US and New Zealand that was based on a theoretical rise in CFC use of 3% a year from 1987.

It also confirms that if ozone-depleting chemicals once commonly used in refrigerators had not been banned, they would have driven 2.5C of extra global heating by the end of the century.

Continued ozone depletion would also have affected the planet's ability to absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere and global warming would already be occurring at similar levels to what's now predicted if countries fail to reach net zero targets.

It's through participation in ARCTick's licensing scheme that refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) technicians contribute to worldwide efforts to protect the climate system and the ozone layer by reducing emissions of CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs into the atmosphere.



## Mental health support in tough times

Looking after your mental health has always been important so you can work effectively and enjoy life outside of work.

As the pressure of the last eighteen months eases as COVID vaccination levels rise, it's still important to acknowledge the difficulties associated with rolling restrictions and lockdowns. If you feel you need help, there are valuable support services available.

Take a look at the following websites for tips, strategies or contact details:

- Beyond Blue offers a dedicated coronavirus webpage that lists resources for those in need [coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/](https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/)
- There's a national website that lists helplines [www.australia.gov.au/phone-contacts](https://www.australia.gov.au/phone-contacts)
- Lifeline provides helpful tips and resources [www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/covid-19/](https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/covid-19/)
- Mates in Construction is another valuable resource that has a focus on tradespeople [mates.org.au/](https://mates.org.au/)



# Changes to RAC industry permit fees

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 provides for the annual indexation of permit application fees.

The annual indexation formula uses the Wage Price Index (WPI) figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Consistent with the WPI figures for the September 2021 quarter, the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) industry permit application fees will increase by 2.227% per cent from 1 January 2022. ~~The permit fees for 2021 and 2022 are outlined here.~~

RAC permit type	Duration	Application fee 2021	Application Fee 2022
<b>Refrigerant handling licence</b>	2 years	\$156	\$160
	3 years	\$234	\$240
<b>Restricted refrigerant handling licence</b>	2 years	\$156	\$160
	3 years	\$234	\$240
<b>Trainee refrigerant handling licence</b>	1 year	\$33	\$34
<b>Refrigerant trading authorisation</b>	2 years	\$496	\$508
	3 years	\$744	\$762
<b>Restricted refrigerant trading authorisation</b>	2 years	\$156	\$160
	3 years	\$234	\$240



## Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) keeps the conversation going

In recent months, RRA's been talking to licence holders to find new ways to deal with challenges facing our sector.

### Looking for ways to increase refrigerant recovery

More than 100 contractors recently participated in a research project to collect data on charge sizes, leakage rates and refrigerant loss during the recovery process of split systems at end-of-life.

Participants used a new app developed by RRA to collect data during the decommissioning process and ultimately provided over 1,150 datasets for analysis.

Based on information collected from the study, RRA concluded that over the last year just 500 tonnes of the available 945.3 tonnes of refrigerant has been recovered from end-of-life split system air conditioning systems. Just how much refrigerant is currently being reused is unknown.

In coming months, RRA will be talking with contractors and technicians to better understand the barriers to improved refrigerant recovery and working with organisations like ARC to develop initiatives that lead to increased collection of unwanted refrigerants from end-of-life equipment.

### Independent survey to learn more about RAC industry challenges

RRA recently undertook an independent research study, Project Ignite, to learn more from licence holders about the realities of working in the sector, the needs of technicians or business owners and provide participants with an opportunity to report on challenges and frustrations of the job.

Watch out for an update on the study's findings in an upcoming issue of Cool Change.



**REFRIGERANT  
RECLAIM  
AUSTRALIA**

# Safe permit condition checks in the age of COVID-19

Over the course of the pandemic, we changed the way we conducted audits to ensure the safety of all RAC businesses and their employees.

Normally, standard audits are conducted by an ARC field officer as an onsite visit. However, as some states experienced lockdowns, the ARC have utilised an online platform as a safe alternative.

The process worked very well and made it possible to keep the number of audits consistent with past years. Now, as restrictions ease, we expect to soon return to face-to-face audits across the country.

Thank you to those licence holders who participated in the online audit process.




# World leading licence scheme

Since its creation back in 2004, Australia's ARCTick scheme has consistently set the international standard for refrigeration and air conditioning licensing.

ARC's successful combination of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (SGG) phasedowns with detailed reporting and licensing requirements has attracted strong support and modelling by governments around the world.

In a report commissioned by the US-based Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), that looked at the jurisdictions of Australia, Japan, UK, EU and Canada, ARCTick was highlighted as a world leader and as a 'comprehensive product stewardship scheme' that minimised the cost burden on industry and provided support for licence holders.

Australia also came out on top with the highest overall rankings for effectiveness, stakeholder engagement and training and support.



## Never miss a thing: keep your contact details up-to-date

To ~~make sure you~~ continue receiving important licence and authorisation updates, be sure to let us know if contact details for you, your business and your licensed staff change.

It's easy, just go to [arctick.org](https://arctick.org), login to the self-service portal and amend your information in a few simple steps.

### RHL holders

<https://arctick.org/refrigerant-handling-licence/change-details/>

Update phone/mobile, residential/postal address and email address.

### Refrigerant Trading Authorisation

<https://arctick.org/refrigerant-trading-authorisation/change-details/>

Update company, contacts, branches, employees, equipment and risk management plan.



# DID YOU KNOW RRA WILL PAY YOU FOR YOUR USED AND UNWANTED REFRIGERANT?



To recover refrigerant:



- STEP **1** Collect a recovery cylinder from your refrigerant gas supplier,
- STEP **2** Fill it with used, contaminated and unwanted refrigerant from systems you service, repair, or decommission.
- STEP **3** Return it to your refrigerant supplier and collect your rebate
- STEP **4** RRA will collect, safely destroy the recovered refrigerant and re-imburse the refrigerant supplier.



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[www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au](http://www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au)



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