

15 September 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARC reminds permit holders to ensure compliance as penalty unit rates increase

The Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) reminds all refrigeration and air conditioning technicians and businesses that the financial consequences of non-compliance have recently increased.

From 1 July 2026, the Commonwealth penalty unit increased from **\$330 to \$364** under section 4AA of the *Crimes Act 1914*. This means fines for offences linked to penalty units have also increased. A penalty unit is a standard monetary multiplier set by law. This unit determines the total cost of a fine or legal penalty by multiplying the number of units assigned to an offense by the current dollar value.

It is more important than ever to ensure all work is fully compliant with legal requirements to safeguard the environment and protect the hip pocket.

Penalties apply to unlicensed work, unauthorised trading, false representations and breaches of permit conditions. Fines for these offences range from \$21,840 for individuals to \$109,200 for corporations. The most severe penalties apply to unlawful discharges of high-GWP refrigerants, which can result in fines of up to \$145,600 for individuals and \$728,000 for corporations.

The ARC urges all ARCTick permit holders to maintain strict compliance to avoid these increased penalties.

It is strongly recommended that you:

- **ensure your licence is valid**
- **confirm your scope of work** to ensure your licence covers the specific tasks you are performing
- **ensure all records are accurate** to meet compliance standards.

Working with an expired licence, or outside the scope of a licence, can lead to substantial penalties under the new rates.

Locked Bag 3033 Box Hill Vic 3128
Toll Free: 1300 88 44 83 Email: enquire@arctick.org
Website: www.arctick.org / www.arcltd.org.au

OFFICIAL

MEDIA RELEASE



For more information, the ARC has published [Fact sheet 11: Penalties under the Act and the Regulations](#). View the fact sheet at www.arctick.org/information/fact-sheets/.

... ends ...

Media Contact: Siddhi Chavan 0412 577 526 schavan@arctick.org