



COOLCHANGE

In this issue

Annual increase in ARctick fees frozen for 2024

New funding gets more boots on the ground

ARctick Award honours top fridges

Standards update

New VETASSESS website

Don't miss out on ARBS

Pacific Islands train-the-trainer visit

Climate change drives Americans to move home

Gender diversity in RAC

A lifetime of staying ahead of the changes

Field Officer Profile: Sonny Balfe

From the Field: Taking proper care of cylinders

What's On

By the Numbers

Annual increase in ARctick fees frozen for 2024

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has announced that the annual increase for ARctick licence application fees has been frozen for 2024.

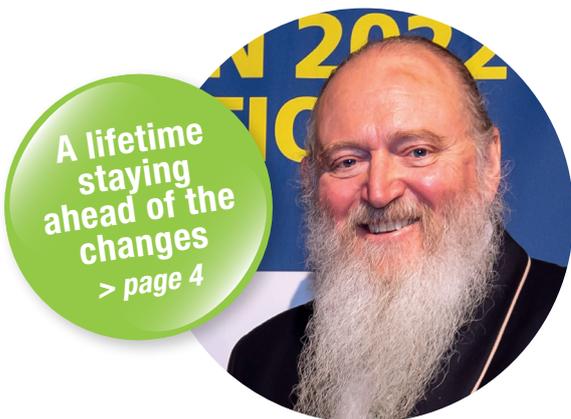
The freeze is aligned with the Government's measures to address cost-of-living pressures.

Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) chief executive officer, Glenn Evans, said the freeze on the annual increase in application fees reflected a shared commitment by ARC and DCCEEW to keep business costs down.

'ARC has long advocated to keep fee increases as low as possible, and we are delighted that the Department has taken this initiative,' he said.

'Fees are normally indexed annually based on the Wage Price Index, which would have resulted in a 4.1% increase on 1 January this year. Instead, we can announce a zero change in fees for 2024, making this one of the few business costs that will not increase this year.'

RAC Permit type	Permit Duration	2023 & 2024 Application Fee
Refrigerant handling licence (RHL)	1 year	\$83
	2 years	\$166
	3 years	\$249
Restricted refrigerant handling licence	1 year	\$83
	2 years	\$166
	3 years	\$249
Refrigeration and air conditioning trainee licence	1 year	\$35
Refrigerant trading authorisation	1 year	\$262
	2 years	\$524
	3 years	\$786
Restricted refrigerant trading authorisation	1 year	\$83
	2 years	\$166
	3 years	\$249



New funding gets more boots on the ground

After several months of negotiating, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) have finalised a new contract that significantly enhances the licensing scheme.

Important changes include:

- Increasing compliance activities to visit more RTA licence holders by mid-November 2025
- ensuring all new RTA holders get an education visit in their first 12 months
- increasing industry participation by engaging with more potential licence holders
- inducting graduates into the scheme by providing them with information packs
- working with the new Jobs and Skills Councils to help improve training packages
- taking a more rigorous approach to deal with non-compliance, including clear triggers for when more serious issues will be referred to the department for a formal compliance investigation
- putting in place industry awards for permit holders that celebrate great environmental stewards.

Departmental officers recently accompanied ARC field officers on education visits around Australia. It was a great opportunity to connect with RTA holders and has significantly improved the department's understanding of the challenges the industry faces.

Greg Watts, ARC's Outreach Engagement Manager, led the education site visits in Brisbane. He welcomed the opportunity to support the refrigeration sector and help the industry do the right thing by complying with the scheme.

'Our job is to make licence holders' lives easier and help them meet their compliance obligations,' he said. 'If you need help on how to be compliant, refer to the ARC website or just call or email ARC.'

The department will use the feedback industry gave during the trip on encouraging compliance and refining practices to shape the future of the licensing scheme. There are exciting times ahead as the scheme evolves in response to the Australian Government's climate change policy.



ARC Outreach Engagement Manager Greg Watts (2nd left) and Bueno Garage owner Andre Bueno (centre) welcomed DCCEEW officers on their recent site visit.

ARCTick Award honours top fridgies



ARC has created a new licensing-based environment award to recognise the efforts of refrigeration technicians in managing refrigerants to the highest standards.

ARCTick Environment Award will be awarded in both mobile and RAC categories. ARC chief executive officer, Glenn Evans, said the award was created to encourage compliance and promote the RAC and mobile air conditioning industries. 'Achieving high standards of refrigerant management takes effort, and this award recognises and rewards that effort,' he said.

'Our field officers often come back from audits deeply impressed by RTAs who show excellence in every aspect of refrigerant management – these people will be our nominees.'

The first award presentation will be for the RAC sector at ARBS in May.

Standards update

Standards Australia has advised of a change to standards relevant to the climate control industry.

AS 1167.1-1993 Welding and brazing Filler metals –

Filler metal for brazing and braze welding has been superseded by AS/NZS ISO 17672:2023 Brazing – Filler metals.

<https://store.standards.org.au/product/as-nzs-iso-17672-2023>

AS/NZS 1167.2:1999 Welding and brazing –

Filler metals Filler metal for welding has been superseded by AS/NZS ISO 24034:2023 Welding consumables – solid wire electrodes, solid wires and rods for fusion welding of titanium and titanium alloys – Classification.

<https://store.standards.org.au/product/as-nzs-iso-24034-2023>



New VETASSESS website

VETASSESS has redesigned its website to make life easier for people seeking information about its services.



VETASSESS assesses the qualifications and work experience of prospective migrants, and supports individuals' applications for employment, course entry and industry membership in Australia. Features include a simple-to-use 'Check your occupation' tool, expanded information on how to access VETASSESS services, a translation tool and individual information pages for each occupation, plus a website-wide search function and expanded FAQs and resources.



Check it out at
<https://www.vetassess.com.au/>

Don't miss out on ARBS

ARBS 2024 will run from 28-30 May at the International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Sydney, showcasing forward-thinking products and practices for a dynamic and environmentally friendly climate control industry.

There will be more than 300 exhibitors, including CO₂ refrigeration specialists, advanced cooling solutions, and low-GWP refrigerant systems. The ARBS seminar program offers technical advice, regulatory insights, and strategies to elevate service quality and business growth, plus valuable CPD points.

ARBS2024

AIR CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION BUILDING SERVICES EXHIBITION



Register now to receive a free digital ticket at www.arbs.com.au

Pacific Islands train-the-trainer visit

AREMA, the Airconditioning and Refrigerant Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia, is continuing its valuable contribution to Pacific relations and the Montreal Protocol's HCFC phase-out through training of Pacific Islands trainers in the latest refrigeration and air conditioning technologies.

Box Hill Institute in Melbourne recently hosted a week-long session for trainers from the Pacific Islands in the installation, maintenance and repair of RAC equipment. As part of an on-going commitment to helping Pacific Island countries improve their HVACR training capability, the AREMA initiative is supported by the Australian government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Major industry supporters are Daikin, Danfoss and AG Coombs, and key trainers are Box Hill Institute manager of refrigeration Len Raines, senior teacher Nathan Dryzan and Praxis Vocational trainer Michael Moller.

ARC General Manager Compliance and Training, Rod Cumming, gave participants a detailed outline of the ARCTick licensing scheme and how its principles might be applied in their countries. Himself a former Box Hill Institute teacher, he thanked Len Raines for the expert training provided for the Pacific visitors.

A special guest was Kathrina Mogia, National Ozone Officer for Papua New Guinea, who was in Australia to study our licensing system as part of PNG's plans to introduce licensing. The PNG National Ozone Unit's mission is to establish a sustainable, safe and healthy community and environment for future generations by applying the best available environmental regulation and biodiversity protection practices.





Sonny Balfe

For Sonny Balfe, the best thing about being an ARC Field Officer is being able to help people with their knowledge gaps, whether it's doing the paperwork, a technical question, or understanding the ARctick licensing scheme.

Sonny joined the Melbourne ARC team not quite a year ago, mostly looking after the western side of Melbourne. Working for ARC has fulfilled his long-term view of working with a leading essential service organisation that can contribute a positive impact within this industry.

'I tell people they can phone me any time if they need advice or information, and they often do,' he said. 'It's a fairly small industry so people get to know you, and word gets around that you're here to help. Sometimes people are nervous if it's their first permit condition check, but I can generally put them at ease. Once they've experienced how it works, they understand that we're more about helping them to be compliant than being some sort of policeman.'

Sonny particularly enjoys helping experienced operators who know their trade thoroughly but might be struggling with the paperwork. By encouraging a licence holder to download the ready-made reporting templates, and showing how to use them, he finds most people are surprised and pleased at how relatively easy it is.



Reporting templates can be downloaded here: <https://www.arctick.org/refrigerant-trading-authorisation/business-reporting-templates-and-guides/>

Before joining ARC, Sonny had almost 30 years' experience as a senior HVAC service engineer, working across refrigeration, HVAC, smoke control and critical environment infrastructure management. Having spent 17 years at Honeywell mainly in customer service, he was a natural for the service-oriented field officer role. Industry colleagues might also know him from his time at James L Williams, or might have studied with him in the early 1990s at RMIT University TAFE.



Taking proper care of cylinders

A common area where RTA holders fall short at their permit condition check is taking proper care of their cylinders.

Australian Standards* specify the requirements for the verification, filling, handling, inspection, testing and maintenance of refillable cylinders for the storage and transport of compressed gas.



Cylinders which have had their original structure altered are considered to be an environmental threat and occupational health and safety (OH&S) issue. It is illegal to possess a disposable cylinder, as they do not meet the relevant Australian Standards. It is an offence to contravene a condition of an RTA. This is an offence of strict liability and subject to fines, suspension or cancellation of an RTA.

What to do with a cylinder that is past its test date?

You can legally use gas from a cylinder that is past its test date until empty. However, it is illegal to recover into a cylinder that is past its test date.

If you have hired the cylinder from a gas wholesaler, simply take the cylinder back and it will either be re-tested or you will be issued with a new cylinder.

If you own the cylinder, once emptied, you will need to get the cylinder re-tested at an appropriate testing station.

For more information on the Standards go to <http://www.saiglobal.com/default.htm>

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 state that, as a condition of holding a licence, only refillable containers are to be used for the storage of refrigerant (135 Licence conditions 1(b)).

*Under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 the use of untested or unsafe gas cylinders that do not meet Australian Standards (AS 2030.1-2009 Gas cylinders, Part 1: General requirements and AS 2030.5-2009 Gas cylinders, Part 5: Filling, inspection and testing of refillable cylinders) is a direct breach of the conditions of holding a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation.



For full details see ARC Fact Sheet 2 at https://www.arctick.org/media/29068/arc5353_factsheet02_jun2023.pdf



What's On

11/04

11-13 April 2024 Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo 2024

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. For the automotive service and repair industry. Hundreds of brands, the latest equipment, tools, technology and trends, plus a comprehensive new automotive training program. Details at <https://autoaftermarketexpo.com.au/>

28/05

28-30 May 2024 ARBS 2024 at ICC Sydney

Air conditioning Refrigeration & Building Services Exhibition. International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Join with more than 300 exhibitors and 8,000 visitors at Australia's big RAC expo. Details at <https://www.arbs.com.au/>

25/07

25 July 2024 AIRAH Perth Industry Night

Gloucester Park, East Perth. Discover the latest technologies, connect with industry professionals, gain new insights and stay up to date with current trends. Free to attend but be sure to register. Details at <https://www.airah.org.au/industry nights>

By the numbers

Total Permit Holders (at 31 December)		
RTA	Stationary	13,326
	Mobile	13,495
RTA TOTAL		26,821
RHL	Stationary	66,661
	Mobile	45,384
RHL TOTAL		112,045
TOTAL all types		138,866

New Permits Issued (1 October-31 December)	
New RTA applications	596
New RHL applications	1,069
New Trainee applications	1,618
TOTAL applications	3,283

Permit Condition Checks (1 October-31 December)	
On-site checks	1,333
Desk audits	134
TOTAL	1,467

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



To recover refrigerant:

- 1 Collect a recovery cylinder from your refrigerant gas supplier,
- 2 Fill it with used, contaminated and unwanted refrigerant from systems you service, repair, or decommission.
- 3 Return it to your refrigerant supplier and collect your rebate



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02 6230 5244

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Climate change drives Americans to move home

While many Australians are battling repeated floods, a study on the impacts of climate change reveals that millions of Americans are becoming climate change refugees.

Associated Press reports that flooding is driving people out of their homes, limiting growth in some communities and accelerating the decline of others. A study by risk analysis organisation First Street Foundation, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, details how climate change and flooding are transforming where Americans live.

First Street found over 3.2 million fewer people lived in highly flood-threatened areas due to the threat of flooding in the first two decades of the century, as climate change made bad hurricanes more intense and increased the amount of rain that storms dump on the Midwest. At a local level researchers identified 'climate abandonment areas' where people choose to stay close to family or work, but relocate to nearby areas that are less flood-prone.

These changes reinforce the need for government initiatives such as the ARctick licensing scheme as a mechanism for better managing the industry's impact on climate change.



Read the full study here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-43493-8>

Gender diversity in RAC

Women's participation in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector has more than tripled in the past 3 years, and is more than 8 times what it was just 5 years ago.

More than **55%** of women in RAC are under 29

The Summer Campaign now features gender diversity in the ads on Google, Facebook, YouTube and Connected TV.

This year's campaign has made a strong start in attracting attention, with the number of people who see the ad and then go to www.lookforthetick.com.au to find a local ARctick licensed business increasing since last year.



A lifetime staying ahead of the changes

When Carl Balke joined TAFE Queensland as an air conditioning and refrigeration teacher more than 30 years ago, things were very different from today.

Both the industry overall and the TAFE environment have changed enormously, but Carl's passion for the industry and his students is as strong as ever. His has been a lifetime of constantly staying ahead of the changes so he can ensure his students are always up to date.

'When I first started at TAFE, computers were just being introduced and I had to take a course to learn to use them,' he recalled. It was the same with the industry's approach to the environment.

'In 1989, when I started, the Montreal Protocol had only just come into effect, and the need to protect the ozone layer was not widely understood,' Carl said. 'At first we focussed on CFCs to reduce ozone depletion, but before long we were also concerned with HFCs and their impact on the greenhouse effect. Since then the changes have never stopped, including ARctick licensing, which has really set the standard.'

Since those early days when many people knew little or nothing about global warming, the refrigeration sector has been in the forefront of addressing it. Carl's students now are concerned about the environment in a way that was unheard of when he started teaching. 'They really care about protecting the planet from ozone depleting substances and high-GWP synthetic refrigerants,' he said. 'I'd like to think that all of us in the TAFE system have helped to make that happen.'

For almost as long as he has been teaching, Carl has been involved in WorldSkills Australia, all the way through from regional competitions to being an international judge. 'I believe in WorldSkills. It is the Olympics of skills,' he said. 'We need to invest in our young people and give them the recognition and see what they can do. If they have the guts to take it on and be judged in their industry, they can handle anything.'