



COOLCHANGE

In this issue

- Have your say on codes of practice
- Increased penalties
- RRA recovers 10 million kg of greenhouse gases
- Stewardship award for ARctick compliance
- Video highlights climate value of technicians
- Ban on high-GWP small AC equipment
- ARC scholarship supports diversity
- Make the most of displaying your RTA permit number
- ARC makes its mark at ARBS and AAA Expo
- Field Officer Profile: Graeme Field
- From the Field: How to prepare for a permit condition check
- What's on
- By the numbers

Have your say on codes of practice

Australia's Refrigerant Handling Codes of Practice for the stationary RAC sector are being updated – and the revised versions will soon be open for public comment.

The Refrigerant Handling Codes of Practice Parts 1 and 2 are being revised by AIRAH for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

The codes are essentially a best-practice guide for anyone working with refrigerants under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. Compliance is mandatory for anyone holding a Refrigerant Handling Licence or Refrigerant Trading Authorisation through ARC.

Current versions of the codes were published in 2007, so they are being revised to reflect current standards, regulations, safety practices, contemporary refrigerants and associated technology. The goal of the project is to help technicians do their work while minimising emissions and improving the environmental performance of HVAC&R equipment.



Public comment drafts of the Refrigerant Handling Codes of Practice will be available online from 29 July to 19 August 2024. Go to airah.org.au/rhcop2024



Increased penalties



The Australian Government has announced heavily increased penalties for offences under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations.

Penalties for offences under the regulations have been increased from 10 penalty units to a maximum of 50 penalty units. The regulations have also been updated to include civil penalty provisions of 60 penalty units for all offences. Based on the current penalty unit value of \$313, the new regulations increase the maximum penalty for an offence to between \$3,130 and \$18,780 for individuals and up to \$93,900 for body corporates.

Offences covered by the regulations include:

- Carrying out work in relation to RAC equipment if the person is not the holder of an appropriate refrigerant handling licence (RHL).
- Possessing or trading in refrigerant if the person does not possess the required refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA).
- False representations that the person can provide a service that involves the acquisition, disposal, storage, use or handling of refrigerant if the person does not possess an appropriate ARctick licence or authorisation.
- Prohibited refrigerant charging with an HCFC or HFC that has a higher 100-year GWP than the design refrigerant.
- Not complying with a condition on a licence or authorisation.

RRA recovers 10 million kg of greenhouse gases



Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) has recovered 10 million kg of synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants, thanks to licensed refrigeration and air conditioning technicians throughout Australia.

This milestone highlights RRA's commitment to reducing emissions from the HVAC sector and the crucial role the refrigeration industry plays in helping to protect the planet. Since its inception in 1993, RRA has worked with industry, wholesalers, and refrigerant distributors to collect unwanted ozone-depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases in more than 500 locations across Australia. With 10,000 tonnes of CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs safely destroyed, the environmental benefits include saving more than 10 million tonnes of stratospheric ozone from being destroyed and preventing more than 18.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

RRA General Manager Kylie Farrelley said the milestone was a testament to the crucial role the refrigeration industry plays in reducing climate change.

'Each kilo of refrigerant recovered from refrigerators, air conditioners and heat pumps is preventing harmful substances from entering our atmosphere,' she said. 'The current level of annual emissions abatement is equivalent to taking 238,000 vehicles off the road.'

Ms Farrelley said the milestone was a reminder that every kilo counts in returning refrigerant for destruction, highlighting the key role that individuals and industry play in protecting the planet. Much of the 10,000 tonnes was recovered less than a kilo at a time from small domestic units.

Stewardship award for ARctick compliance

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) have introduced a new award to recognise ARctick licensed businesses that are compliant at first audit.

The Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award has been created for Refrigerant Trading Authorisation (RTA) holders whose businesses are found to be fully compliant when audited by ARC field officers.

ARC Chief Executive Officer Glenn Evans said the award recognised outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship through achieving 100% regulatory compliance with their RTA requirements.

'When field officers conduct a permit condition check – commonly known as an audit – many RTAs are fully compliant, but not all, and this award recognises those who are,' he said.



'Field officers check equipment, staffing and paperwork, and not everyone is fully compliant at first, although almost all are after receiving follow-up support by the field officers. It takes diligent effort to consistently meet all regulatory requirements, and those who do so are truly hands-on environmental heroes.'

RTAs who are fully compliant at first audit will receive a digital certificate from DCCEEW and ARC to demonstrate their environmental credentials to customers and clients in a society that is increasingly concerned with protecting the environment.

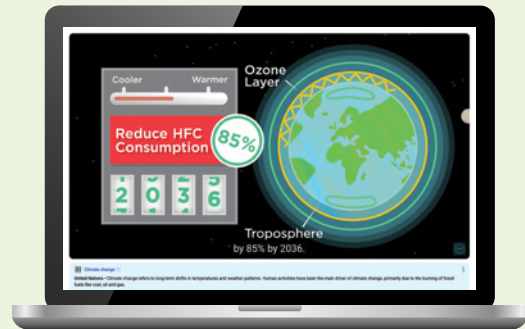
Video highlights climate value of technicians

A new video produced by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) highlights the valuable contribution made to protecting the environment by Australia's licensed refrigeration and air conditioning technicians.

The video is designed to promote the role licensed technicians play in addressing climate change and to improve awareness of the industry and the ARCTick licensing scheme. It has been built into ARC's licence application process, where applicants will watch it and learn about regulatory changes and important licence conditions.

A shorter consumer version of the video addresses the fact that many Australians are unaware that most air con and refrigeration systems contain HFC refrigerants which contribute to global warming when released, or that only licensed technicians can work on these systems. It also promotes the Look for the Tick website where consumers can find authorised businesses and confirm technicians' licences are current.

Another benefit is to put the industry on the radar of potential apprentices, for whom it shows the key role they can play in climate control, environmental protection and sustainability.



See the technician video at youtu.be/sL8MLBdYXUI



See the consumer version at youtu.be/u7VqW0Q6n2w



Ban on high-GWP small AC equipment

The import and manufacture of small air conditioning equipment with high global warming potential refrigerant (GWP over 750) has been banned as of 1 July 2024. Existing equipment in Australia won't be affected.

The ban applies to air conditioning equipment designed to be used to cool or heat, or both, a stationary space primarily for human comfort if the equipment is:

- an outdoor unit for a single-head split system air conditioning system
- a portable air conditioner
- a window/wall air conditioner (a single unit designed to be fixed to a window or wall)

And the equipment:

- has a standard refrigerant charge of 2.6 kg or less, and
- contains, or is designed to operate with, an HFC refrigerant that has a GWP of more than 750.

The ban will **not** apply to:

- outdoor units for ducted systems
- indoor units of split systems when imported separately from the outdoor unit
- equipment for mobile applications such as motor vehicles, caravans, aircraft and boats
- systems for use in electrical enclosures and computer rooms
- air-to-water equipment, such as units for hydronic home heating systems, swimming pool heat pumps
- humidifiers or dehumidifiers.

Importers will be able to apply for an exemption to the ban in certain circumstances. Equipment imported or manufactured in Australia before 1 July 2024 may be sold after that date.



ARC scholarship supports diversity

ARC has joined with the TAFE Queensland Foundation to sponsor a scholarship encouraging diversity in the climate control industry.

The scholarship has been created under the foundation's Access and Equity scholarship program, designed to help indigenous students who are battling social or financial hardship. ARC Chief Executive Officer Glenn Evans said the scholarship would help to bridge the gap for bright young indigenous people who possess the potential to excel in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector but might not have the opportunity.

'The industry always needs clever, committed young people, and this scholarship is a way of bringing just such a person into our sector,' he said.

Each year the foundation will seek out indigenous students in the refrigeration course as candidates to receive the ARC scholarship of \$5,000 towards their study to cover the costs of course fees, text books and living expenses.

Make the most of displaying your RTA permit number

In the world of trade, having a great looking vehicle, website and stationery is essential – and if you're an RTA, including your AU number is a vital part of that.

A top-class fit-out can boost efficiency, safety, and the popularity of your business. But no matter how state-of-the-art your signage looks, it won't meet industry standards if you're not adhering to your licence conditions – especially displaying your ARctick permit number. This issue is often picked up on permit condition checks or reported to us.

There are good reasons why displaying your AU number matters:

- **Legal compliance:** RTA holders must display their permit number on all advertising, including their vehicle, website, business cards and flyers. Not doing so means non-compliance with licence conditions and could result in escalation to the Department.
- **Credibility:** Consumers and clients look for the ARctick number as a mark of legitimacy and professionalism. Displaying it assures customers you adhere to industry standards and are authorised to trade in refrigerants, or qualified to handle them.
- **Environmental responsibility:** Proper storage, handling and disposal of refrigerants are crucial to prevent discharges. The ARctick number signifies that your business is committed to responsible practices.
- **Visibility:** ARC encourages consumers to 'Look for the Tick' through many channels, including the summer digital marketing campaign, so it is worth letting people know that you are what they should be looking for when they look for the tick.

To make sure you're compliant, you can:

- **Audit your advertising:** RTA holders must make sure their ARC number is clearly visible wherever they advertise RAC services.
- **Update your stationery:** Both RTA and RHL holders need to have their licence number on all invoices, receipts and quotes.
- **Educate your team:** Make sure all employees know the importance of displaying the ARctick number and where it should be visible.

Cutting corners on compliance can be bad for business. No matter how advanced your set-up, it won't count for much if you're not meeting legal requirements. Display your ARC number proudly – it's not just about following the rules; it's about showcasing your commitment to quality and responsibility.

To enhance the whole effect, you can add the ARctick symbol to your signage. It's not mandatory but it's worth doing – email comms@arctick.org for a set of artwork files for the ARctick logo.



ARC at ARBS 2024 in Sydney.

ARC makes its mark at ARBS and AAA Expo

Industry guidance and support were at the core of ARC's presence at industry shows lately, with stands and presentations at the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Expo (AAAE) in Melbourne and the Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, Building Services Exhibition (ARBS) in Sydney.

At ARBS, the ARC presence included important presentations by ARC's General Manager Compliance and Training, Rod Cumming, who drew on the latest ARC licensing data to provide an interesting seminar snapshot of Australia's refrigeration and air-conditioning industry. He also delivered two presentations on current training and qualifications issues to the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Training Alliance (RACTA).

At AAA Expo, ARC was only a few stands away from VASA (Automotive Air conditioning, Electrical and Cooling Technicians of Australasia) so people could be directed between the two stands depending on what they needed to know. At ARBS, the ARC stand was adjacent to RRA (Refrigerant Reclaim Australia), RACCA (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association) and WorldSkills Australia, creating further synergy.

As always at these shows, visitors to the ARC stand asked the sort of questions they might not otherwise ask more formally. Most were about licensing issues, particularly if they were returning to the industry after a break or planning to start their own business.



CCN magazine has published a story based on Rod Cumming's seminar, which can be read at www.climatecontrolnews.com.au/news/latest/snapshot-of-a-technician



Graeme Field

Since becoming an ARC field officer in 2017, Graeme Field has found his extensive and varied refrigeration experience serves him well in assisting the people he audits.

'People can be nervous about being audited, especially the first time, but they feel a lot better when I tell them I'm an ex-fridge,' he said. 'I like helping people out, and they soon come to realise I'm there to help them be compliant, not to make it hard for them.'

In the early 1990s, after beginning his trade at Dubbo, Graeme went travelling – and was soon responsible for refrigeration repairs and maintenance at British supermarkets Sainsbury's and Tesco. He then returned to Australia for a year at Hamilton Island looking after refrigeration for the restaurant, residential and resort facilities, before spending the next 20 years running his own business, Admiral Refrigeration on the Gold Coast.

Throughout his career, Graeme has taken an interest in compliance with health and safety requirements and has always prided himself on his customer service and communication skills. This combination of people skills and a commitment to compliance serves him well in his role as a field officer.

Still based on the Gold Coast as part of the Queensland team, Graeme finds an interesting parallel between his ARC role and his commercial career. 'When I was a fridge, I enjoyed helping people by fixing things for them – now I'm helping in a different way. Every day on the job I'm helping decent people to get the job done,' he said. 'It's also good to know that what we are doing is helping the environment. Over the years I've been a diver, among other things, so I know how important it is to look after our natural world. In this role I get to help people do that.'

FROM
THE
FIELD

How to prepare for a permit condition check

About a third of RTAs fail their permit condition checks at first audit, with one of the most common areas for non-compliance being in the paperwork. A little preparation prior to your permit condition check can help you to be compliant the first time round.

ARC conducts condition checks of all companies or individuals that hold a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation (RTA). Our field officers are here to help you to be compliant, and will contact you at least a week in advance to arrange the visit, so don't hesitate to seek their advice.

To ensure you are meeting the conditions of your RTA, you will be required to provide evidence of the following at the audit:

- up-to-date records for the last 2 quarters showing the amounts of refrigerant bought, sold (bulk amount in cylinders) and recovered/reclaimed (for destruction) during each quarter. (Naturally, if your audit is less than 6 months after receiving your RTA, we will not expect you to have 2 quarters of records yet.)
- that each item of equipment necessary to prevent avoidable emissions of refrigerant is operating correctly
- quarterly records for the last 2 quarters of any checks, maintenance or other activities undertaken to ensure each item of equipment necessary to prevent avoidable emissions of refrigerant is operating correctly
- that equipment includes at least one each of: leak detector, vacuum pump, recovery unit, and recovery cylinder
- quarterly records for the last 2 quarters of current Refrigerant Handling Licence (RHL) holders (name, licence number, entitlement and expiry date)
- quarterly records for the last 2 quarters that show you have checked any and all refrigerant cylinders in your possession for leaks at least once during the quarter
- a list for the last 2 quarters of all refrigerant cylinders in your possession during each quarter and their test dates
- evidence that a risk management plan for the handling and storage of refrigerant in your business has been put into effect (For a guide to producing a risk management plan and example templates, visit www.arctick.org or call ARC on 1300 884 483)
- having included your RTA number on any advertising of services, on any invoices, receipts or quotes for work carried out under the RTA.



ARC has produced a video to help prepare for an audit: youtu.be/L8s5GiaFIGk



What's on

04/08

4-6 August 2024 RWTA National Conference + Exhibition

RACV Cape Schanck Resort, Victoria. With the theme of *On Thin Ice, Navigating Australia's Cold Chain Viability*, this major RWTA event offers access to knowledge, experiences and networks to create an informed future. Details at www.rwta.com.au/conference-2024

23/08

23-25 August 2024 VASA Wire & Gas in Brisbane

Moving to a new home at The Westin Brisbane, Wire & Gas convention and trade show delivers the latest in automotive air conditioning, electrical and cooling, plus the official release of *Cool Mavericks*, the history of automotive air-conditioning. Details at vasa.org.au

02/09

2-4 September 2024 Ideaction.24 in Melbourne

The Facility Management Association will host the annual Ideaction conference in Melbourne at Pullman on The Park. Join over 300 passionate facilities management professionals discussing latest trends and new advances. Details at ideaction24

By the numbers

Total Permit Holders (at 30 June)

RTA	Stationary	13,752
	Mobile	13,918
RTA TOTAL		27,670
RHL	Stationary	70,185
	Mobile	47,223
RHL TOTAL		117,408
TOTAL all types		145,078

New Permits Issued (1 April – 30 June)

New RTA applications	762
New RHL applications	1,283
New Trainee applications	2,867
TOTAL applications	4,912

Permit Condition Checks (1 April – 30 June)

On-site checks	1,361
Desk audits	7
TOTAL	1,368

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.

+61 02 6230 5244
www.refrigerantreclaim.com.au



SPEAKER LINE-UP: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

A huge, diverse programme of presentations and seminars



Grant Hand



Lesley Yates



Oscar Vall



Bob Ansett



Aaron Feast



Jeff Smit



Clinton Brett



Kylie Farrelley



Rodger Nardi



John McCormack



Rodney Cumming



Geoff Mutton

Visit the ARC display at Wire & Gas



NETWORKING | TRADE SHOW | BOOK LAUNCH

TICKETS & ACCOMMODATION: WIREANDGAS.COM