

New Refrigerant Sales Restrictions Take Effect January 01, 2018

The sales restriction is established by EPA regulations under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act. Only EPA-certified technicians are allowed to purchase ozone-depleting-substances used as refrigerants. Technicians may be certified under either the Section 608 or Section 609 technician certification programs.

The sales restriction covers refrigerants contained in cylinders, cans or drums, except for the sale of small cans of substitute refrigerants for use in motor vehicle air conditioners. This sales restriction does not include refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment or components that contain refrigerants.

Requirements to Purchase Refrigerant:

The following people can buy any type of ozone-depleting refrigerant or substitute refrigerant starting January 01, 2018.

- Technicians who have earned the Section 608 Technician Certification.
- Employers of a Section 608 certified technician or the employers' authorized representative, when the employer provides the refrigerant wholesaler with written evidence that they employ at least one properly certified technician.

The following people can buy refrigerant found acceptable for use in a motor vehicle air conditioner (MVACs).

- Technicians who have earned Section 609 Technician Certification.

Only Section 608 certified technicians can purchase refrigerants intended for use with stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. Section 609 certified technicians cannot purchase refrigerants that are intended for use with stationary equipment, regardless of container size.

EPA is not restricting the sale of "small cans" containing less than 2 pounds of substitute refrigerants (e.g., HFC-134a) for use in MVACs.

Wholesaler Responsibilities when Selling Refrigerant:

Wholesalers that sell either ozone-depleting or substitute refrigerants must retain invoices that indicate the name of the purchaser, the date of the sale and the quantity of refrigerant purchased. Wholesalers that sell refrigerant for resale are legally responsible for ensuring that their customers fit into one of the categories of allowed purchasers under the sales restriction.

Although the regulation does not specify precautions that wholesalers must take to verify the intent of individuals purchasing refrigerant, EPA recommends that wholesalers obtain a signed statement from the purchaser indicating that they are purchasing the refrigerant only for eventual resale to certified technicians.

Requirements for Sales of Small Cans of Refrigerant (less than 20 lbs.) to Wholesalers:

- Sellers must obtain a written statement from the wholesaler that the small cans are for resale only. The statement must indicate the purchasers' name and business address.

Recordkeeping Requirements for Refrigerant Retailers:

Individuals or companies that sell refrigerants must comply with EPA recordkeeping requirements. It is important to note that *all records related to the sale of refrigerants must be kept for a minimum of three years.*

Requirements for Sales of Large Cylinders to Service Technicians:

- The seller must keep an invoice listing the name of the purchaser, date of sale and quantity of refrigerant purchased.
- The seller must either see a Section 608 or Section 609 technician certification card.
- Uncertified buyers purchasing on behalf of a shop, the seller must see evidence that at least one technician at that shop is certified, including a copy of the certification.
- Section 609 technicians may not purchase hydro chlorofluorocarbon, R-22.
- The seller must keep a copy of the purchasers' technician certification on file.
- The purchasing facility must notify the seller if a certified technician is no longer employed. The seller is then prohibited from selling refrigerant to the shop.

Requirements for Sales of Small Cans of Refrigerant (less than 20 lbs.) to MVACs:

- The seller must see the technicians' Section 609 certification card. Only Section 609 certified technicians can purchase small cans of chlorofluorocarbon, R-12.
- Section 608 certified technicians may not purchase these cans.

Requirements for Sales of Small Cans of HFC-134a (2 pounds or less):

- EPA is not restricting the sale of small cans of HFC-134a or other EPA approved non-ozone depleting substitutes for MVACs. Starting on January 01, 2018, such small cans must be manufactured with a unique fitting and a self-sealing valve to reduce emissions.

Section 608: Applies to technicians who maintain, service, repair or dispose of equipment or appliances that could release ozone depleting refrigerants into the atmosphere.

Section 609: Applies to technicians or any person who repairs a motor vehicle air conditioning (MVAC) system for consideration of payment or barter.

Source: www.epa.gov