

24-003

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Bulletin: State of California Refrigerant Transition Updates			
Effective Date:	January 1, 2024		
From:	Energy, Sustainability & Transportation		

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform Executive Facilities Officers, Director of Facilities Operations, facilities operators, energy managers, and other members of the CSU community on upcoming regulations regarding mandatory transition of refrigerants and anticipated impacts. This technical bulletin has been developed with MRB concurrence.

Market Availability of Refrigerant-Using Equipment

Please note that refrigerant Global Warming Potential (GWP) levels in newly-purchased chillers, air-conditioning equipment, and more will be regulated by the State of California as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. **New chillers containing refrigerants exceeding 750 in GWP value will be prohibited after January 2024, other new air conditioning equipment containing refrigerants exceeding 750 GWP will be prohibited after January 2025, and new VRF systems containing refrigerants exceeding 750 GWP will be prohibited after January 2026.** Capital projects containing this equipment in their designs should plan accordingly.

State of California Refrigerant Transition Updates

General End-Use	Specific End-Use	Prohibited Substances	Effective Date
Chillers – Air-conditioning	Chillers (new)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2024
Chillers – Industrial Process Refrigeration	Chillers (new) designed for chilled fluid leaving the chiller at temperatures > +35 °F (2 °C)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2024
Chillers – Industrial Process Refrigeration	Chillers (new) designed for chilled fluid leaving the chiller at temperatures ≤ +35 °F (2 °C) -and > -10 °F (-23 °C)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 1,500 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2024
Chillers – Industrial Process Refrigeration	Chillers (new) designed for chilled fluid leaving the chiller at at temperatures ≤ -10 °F (-23 °C) and > -58 °F (-50 °C)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 2,200 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2024

Figure 1: Chiller Refrigerant GWP Regulations¹

Specific End-Use	Prohibited Substances	Effective Date
Room/wall/window air-conditioning equipment, PTACs, PTHPs, portable air-conditioning equipment, and residential dehumidifiers (new)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2023
Other air-conditioning (new) equipment, residential and non-residential	Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2025
Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) system (new)	Refrigerants with a GWP of 750 or greater	Prohibited as of January 1, 2026

Figure 2: Other Air-Conditioning Equipment Refrigerant GWP Regulations²

SB 1206: High GWP Refrigerant Phaseout

Senate Bill 1206 states,

“This bill would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2025, hydrofluorocarbons with a GWP greater than 750 that are not reclaimed from being used to replenish leaks or otherwise service stationary equipment owned or operated by the state.”

This prohibits the use of virgin refrigerants including but not limited to R-410A, R-404A, R-134A, and R-22 to replenish leaks. Instead, these refrigerants will be required to be sourced from EPA-certified refrigerant reclaimers.

¹ <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-significant-new-alternatives-policy-snap/chillers>

² <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-significant-new-alternatives-policy-snap/air-conditioning-equipment>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Certified Refrigerant Reclaimers

The EPA maintains a list³ of certified refrigerant reclaimers nationwide. Of the list, 3 companies are located in California and included below. Should a refrigerant provider that your campus work with be interested in becoming EPA-certified, they may apply here⁴.

Absolute Chiller Services, Inc.
300 E. Sycamore Rd.
Arvin, CA 93203

Chiller Services Refrigerant Recovery Reclamation LLC
13564 Imperial Hwy Unit E
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Newcomb Mechanical, Inc.
Industrial Refrigerant Reclaim
1169 Chess Dr, Suite E
Foster City, CA 94404

The CSU Chancellor's Office will be holding trainings and lunch-and-learns in the coming months as more market information emerges. In the meantime, please contact Rachel Patterson, University Engineer, at rpatterson@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4017 with any questions.

Attachments: None

Weblinks:

- California Significant New Alternatives Policy
 - <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-significant-new-alternatives-policy-snap/chillers>
- EPA-Certified Refrigerant Reclaimers
 - <https://www.epa.gov/section608/epa-certified-refrigerant-reclaimers>
- Checklist for Refrigerant Reclaimers Seeking EPA Certification
 - <https://www.epa.gov/section608/checklist-refrigerant-reclaimers-seeking-epa-certification>

Applicability: All Structures and associated refrigerant-using equipment owned or occupied by the State including Auxiliary Services, Design Services, Permit Process, Construction Services, Public Private Partnerships, Lease and Acquisitions.

End of Bulletin

³ <https://www.epa.gov/section608/epa-certified-refrigerant-reclaimers>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/section608/checklist-refrigerant-reclaimers-seeking-epa-certification>