

EPA Issues Final Rule on Refrigerant Compliance Deadlines

What FEDA Members Need to Know

On May 26, 2026, the EPA’s final rule revising compliance deadlines under the Technology Transitions Provisions of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act was published in the Federal Register. The final rule extends interim GWP ceilings for several refrigeration applications relevant to foodservice dealers and their customers. The phasedown itself remains intact, but on a new timeline: interim ceilings expire January 1, 2032, at which point the original 150 or 300 GWP limits apply to new installations.

What this means for FEDA Members:

For projects with remote refrigeration, the most common HFC blends used in commercial refrigeration (including R448A/R449A) are once again allowable for new installations beginning July 27, 2026. These blends fall under the 1,400 GWP interim ceiling and were not allowable under the original rule’s 150 or 300 GWP limits.

Dealers and customers who paused projects or transitioned designs to lower-GWP systems in anticipation of the original deadlines now have additional refrigerant flexibility for installations through the beginning of 2032.

For cold storage warehouse projects, the 700 GWP ceiling does not allow R448A/R449A. Lower-GWP refrigerants remain required for that subsector.

What the final rule changes

Subsector	Interim GWP Ceiling	Effective Date
Retail food – remote condensing units	1,400	July 27, 2026
Retail food – supermarket systems	1,400	January 1, 2027
Cold storage warehouses	700	July 27, 2026

GWP ceilings transition to the original 150 or 300 limits on January 1, 2032. Retail food – remote condensing units, includes typical walk-in installations for restaurants, schools, and other applications with remote refrigeration. This is the category that primarily affects FEDA members.

The new ceilings for remote condensing units and cold storage warehouses take effect 60 days after publication.

What the final rule does not change

- **Existing installed equipment.** The final rule governs new installations only.
- **Self-contained refrigeration equipment,** including walk-ins with integrated refrigeration. The original 150 GWP limit remains in effect for those applications.