

EPA's Refrigerant Management Requirements

What Appliance Disposal and Recycling Facilities Need to Know



What is Section 608?

Section 608 of the Clean Air Act prohibits the knowing release of refrigerant during the maintenance, service, repair, or disposal of air-conditioning (AC) and refrigeration equipment. EPA requires proper refrigerant management practices by appliance disposal facilities, reclaimers, technicians, owners and operators of AC and refrigeration systems, those who buy or sell refrigerant, and others. These requirements apply for all refrigerants that contain ozone-depleting substances, e.g., hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and non-exempt substitute refrigerants, e.g., hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs) and blends thereof.

Some refrigerants are exempt from the refrigerant management requirements. Examples include carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and water. For a full list of exempt refrigerants, see 40 CFR § 82.154(a).

What are the section 608 refrigerant management requirements for appliance disposal and recycling facilities?¹

Appliance disposal and recycling facilities must comply with the following provisions. These provisions did not change as a result of EPA's 2020 update.

Appliance disposal and recycling facilities must:

- Before disposal of **small appliances** (e.g., refrigerators and window air conditioners),
 - Recover 80% (if using pre-1993 recovery equipment) or 90% of non-exempt refrigerant from the appliance using certified recovery and/or recycling equipment; or
 - Evacuate the appliance to 4 inches of mercury vacuum; or
 - Verify with a signed statement or contract that non-exempt refrigerant was previously recovered according to the safe disposal requirements.
- Before disposal of **MVAC or MVAC-like appliances** (e.g., contained in cars and trucks),
 - Evacuate non-exempt refrigerant from the appliance in accordance with 40 CFR Part 82, Subpart B; or
 - Reduce the system pressure to below 102 mm of mercury vacuum; or
 - Verify with a signed statement or contract that non-exempt refrigerant was previously recovered according to the safe disposal requirements.

What are the requirements for signed statements and contracts?

- Appliance disposal and recycling facilities must keep a copy of all the signed statements or contracts indicating non-exempt refrigerant was recovered properly from appliances. Records need to be maintained for three years.

¹ This fact sheet highlights select provisions that may be of most interest to this community. Please see the regulations at <https://go.usa.gov/xpKhq> for the full requirements.

- Statements must include the name and address of the person who recovered the refrigerant and the date the refrigerant was recovered.
- Signed contracts between disposal facilities and suppliers must state that the supplier will recover remaining refrigerant from the appliance prior to delivery or certify that the refrigerant had been previously properly recovered.
- If all the refrigerant has leaked out of the appliance, the disposal facility must obtain a signed statement that all the refrigerant in the appliance had leaked out prior to delivery to the final processor and recovery is not possible.

Additional Resources

Updates to the Refrigerant Management Program:

www.epa.gov/section608/revised-section-608-refrigerant-management-regulations

EPA's Section 608 Webpage: www.epa.gov/section608

EPA's Section 608 Safe Disposal Webpage:

www.epa.gov/section608/stationary-refrigeration-safe-disposal-requirements

Contact EPA: www.epa.gov/section608/forms/contact-us-about-stationary-refrigeration-and-air-conditioning