

News Update: Handling Safety Issues Regarding A2L Refrigerants

Attention all contractors,

The NC State Board of Refrigeration Contractors is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all professionals in our industry. With the growing use of A2L refrigerants, it is imperative that all contractors stay informed about the specific safety issues associated with these substances. A2L refrigerants, characterized by their lower flammability, still pose unique risks that must be carefully managed.

Key Safety Issues with A2L Refrigerants:

1. **Flammability:** While A2L refrigerants have lower flammability compared to A3 refrigerants, they can still ignite under certain conditions. Proper handling and storage procedures must be followed to minimize fire risks.
2. **Leak Detection:** A2L refrigerants require specific leak detection methods due to their flammable nature. Ensure all detection equipment is compatible with A2L refrigerants.
3. **Ventilation:** Adequate ventilation is critical when working with A2L refrigerants to prevent the accumulation of potentially flammable gas concentrations in confined spaces.
4. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Appropriate PPE, including gloves and safety goggles, must be worn to protect against potential exposure to these chemicals.

Training Resources

To support contractors in gaining the necessary knowledge and skills for handling A2L refrigerants safely, we recommend the following non-profit organization resources for refrigerant safety training:

1. **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)**
 - ASHRAE offers comprehensive training programs and resources on refrigerant safety, including specific courses on A2L refrigerants. Visit their website for more information: [ASHRAE Training](#)
2. **Refrigeration Service Engineers Society (RSES)**
 - RSES offers extensive educational materials and training sessions on safe refrigerant practices, catering to different levels of expertise. Find out more: [RSES Training](#)
3. **Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute**
 - AHRI provides valuable resources and training opportunities focused on refrigeration technology and safety. More details can be found here: [AHRI Training](#)

The safety of our contractors is of utmost importance. By staying informed and utilizing the available training resources, we can ensure that the handling of A2L refrigerants is conducted with the highest standards of safety.