

News Update: Handling Safety Issues Regarding A2L Refrigerants

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:

- **ASHRAE** offers comprehensive training programs and resources on refrigerant safety, including specific courses on A2L refrigerants. Visit their website for more information: [ASHRAE Training](#)
- **ESCO Institute** offers services to include the development and publishing of training manuals, curriculum packages, assessment exams, specialty training packages and custom publishing solutions for the HVACR and building science fields. ESCO Institute has training materials for A2L/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety including a training manual (available in both English and Spanish), a PowerPoint for instructors/trainers (available in both English and Spanish), a 50-question, closed-book certification examination (available in both English and Spanish), as well as a self-paced, on-demand, online course. Find out more about the A2L training resources available through [ESCO Institute](#). Additional training resources and certifications for HVACR also available.
- **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.