



Breaking News Rheem Government Affairs



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AIM Refrigerant Management Final Rule

EPA program to reduce leaks and increase reclaim

On September 23rd, the U.S. EPA released a final rule establishing an Emissions Reduction and Reclamation Program for the management of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This action is expected as part of the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020.

The rule sets a minimum standard for reclaimed refrigerant and includes the following requirements for HVACR:

- Leak repair for system charge \geq 15 lbs. starting Jan. 1, 2026
- Automatic leak detection for refrigeration systems \geq 1,500 lbs. starting Jan. 1, 2026
- Use of reclaim for service of supermarket systems, refrigerated transport, and automatic commercial ice makers as of Jan. 1, 2029
- Used disposable cylinders sent to a certified reclaimer or processor to recover the heel, starting Jan. 1, 2028
- Spent ignitable refrigerants sent off-site must go to a RCRA¹ facility starting Jan. 1, 2025

Notably absent from the requirements were two provisions from the original proposal, to which industry strongly opposed:

- Reclaim use in newly manufactured equipment – *not included*
- QR tracking of disposable refrigerant cylinders – *not included*

Rheem Government Affairs has worked closely with EPA and trade associations to bring about the changes reflected in the final rule. Our customers and partners should review the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the rule for any direct impacts.

¹Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Key Takeaways

EPA finalizes refrigerant management requirements for HVACR as part of the AIM Act.

Leak repair, automatic detection, and reclaimed service gas are required for certain applications and charge sizes.

Reclaimed refrigerant will **not** be required for first fill of new equipment.

QR tracking of disposable cylinders has not been implemented.

For more information on the final rule, including EPA fact sheet and FAQs, see the rulemaking page: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/regulatory-actions-managing-hfc-use-and-reuse>

