



Australian Government
Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts



FACT SHEET 13

Who can do what, with Split System Air Conditioners

The ARC issues two (2) licence types only, that permit individuals to undertake work with split system air conditioners. However, there is considerable difference between the two licences in what the holder of each of those licences can and can't do.

The following details the distinction in the work practices between the two licences:

1. Full Refrigeration and Air conditioning (RAC) Licence

The holder of a full "RAC" licence *is* qualified to;

- Work with any air conditioning system, split system or otherwise, of any cooling capacity
- Undertake all aspects of installation, service, repair, maintenance or decommissioning of air conditioning systems.

2. Restricted Split System Air conditioning Installation and Decommissioning (Splits) Licence

The holder of a restricted "Splits" licence *is* qualified to;

- Work with a single head split system air conditioners of **less** than 18kW cooling capacity
- Undertake installation, including running the pipe work of a single head split system air conditioner
- Introduce additional refrigerant when required on extended pipe runs during installation only
- Commission the system after installation is completed
- Undertake removal of refrigerant from the system prior to decommissioning.

The holder of a restricted "Splits" licence *is not* qualified and *not* permitted to:

- Work with any split system air conditioner of **more** than 18kW cooling capacity
- Install multi head split system air conditioning systems
- Carry out any service, repair or maintenance of any split system air conditioner.

An ARC Refrigerant Handling Licence (RHL) is a national environment based licence to handle fluorocarbon refrigerants.

Individuals need to contact their state or territory regulatory bodies with regards occupational, OH&S, contractor, electrical, ducting, or other licensing associated with work they are undertaking.

- "Topping-up" a system before the system has been fully tested and all identified leaks repaired by any individual is illegal.