



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



FACT SHEET 6

Do You Need a Refrigerant Handling Licence to Work with Natural Refrigerants (including hydrocarbons, ammonia, CO₂, air and water)?

Under the Australian Government's Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 a technician does not need a Refrigerant Handling Licence to handle natural refrigerants.

To handle fluorocarbon refrigerants (including halocarbons, CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs) however, a technician must hold an appropriate Refrigerant Handling Licence.

If a technician (including a repairer or dismantler) removes fluorocarbon refrigerant from any refrigeration or air conditioning system and wants to replace this gas with natural refrigerants, they must hold, as a minimum, a Restricted Refrigerant Recoverers Transitional Licence, which can be obtained from the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC).

Individuals that handle fluorocarbon refrigerant without a Refrigerant Handling Licence are committing an offence of strict liability under the regulations and are subject to fines.

In addition to these conditions, all technicians handling refrigerant should:

1. Understand their obligations to all relevant occupational health and safety (OH&S) regulations in their state or territory;
2. Consider any relevant code of practice; and
3. Consider any relevant advice from the equipment manufacturer and refrigerant manufacturer regarding servicing and use.

For information on how to obtain a Restricted Refrigerant Recoverers Transitional Licence or the Regulations visit www.arctick.org or call the ARC on 1300 884 483.