



Australian Government

Department of the Environment
and Water Resources



Advertising the value of our industry to the public

The ARC is investing \$400,000 this summer to educate consumers about the importance of using licensed technicians and authorised businesses. Advertisements have appeared in major weekend newspapers and point of sale material has been distributed to retailers across the country.

Make the most of this opportunity:

- ▶ Include the ARC logo in your advertising. Consumers are being encouraged to look for the ARC logo as the symbol of the professional industry. To get a copy of the logo and terms of use, please contact the ARC.

- ▶ Check your entry in the ARC's "Find an authorised business". This free web directory allows consumers to find businesses in their area, that hold a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation, and that are offering the services that the consumer needs. Log on to www.arctick.org and follow the links to "Find an authorised business". If your entry is missing or needs updating, contact the ARC.

- ▶ Display point of sale material in your business. Especially if the public are coming into your office, shop or showroom, proudly display posters and other materials that promote the benefits of using qualified professionals. You can obtain free copies of this material from the ARC.
- ▶ Check your local retailers. If you're in a retailer that sells air conditioning equipment in your local area and they're not displaying the ARC material, encourage them to do so. They can obtain free copies of a range of point of sale material by contacting the ARC.



The ARC can be contacted on 1300 88 44 83.

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Codes of practice

The new codes of practice for the stationary side of the industry are complete and have been incorporated into the Regulations. Compliance with these codes will be mandatory from 1 January 2008.

One of the important changes from the old codes relates to decommissioning equipment. When equipment is decommissioned all the refrigerant must be removed from all parts of the system. Pumping down is no longer acceptable. The only exceptions to this requirement are when the equipment is being decommissioned for servicing or where the equipment will be immediately recommissioned (e.g. moving the outdoor unit of a split-system when a house is being renovated). Immediate recommissioning does not include a unit being held for sale second-hand or for installation at another premises.

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You can obtain a copy of the codes from the ARC website, [Part 1](#) Self-contained low charge systems www.arctick.org/news/pdf/Stационаry_COP_2007_Part_1.pdf
[Part 2](#) Systems other than self-contained Low charge systems www.arctick.org/news/pdf/Stационаry_COP_2007_Part_2.pdf

The final draft of the code of practice for the **automotive industry** is complete and the industry is invited to comment on the technical issues contained. If you'd like to view a copy of the draft code, visit the ARC website at www.arctick.org/news/pdf/Automotive_COP_draft.pdf
Comments should be received at the Department no later than close of business on 24 December 2007 and should be addressed to:

**Chris Young, Assistant Director
Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601**

or email to rac@environment.gov.au

If you would like to comment on the automotive code and think that you will not make the deadline, please contact the Department.

2008 industry consultation – your chance for input

To develop and maintain good policy and effective laws for the RAC industry, the Department of the Environment and Water Resources regularly consults with all sectors of the RAC industry.

The next scheduled round of broad industry consultation is planned for March and April 2008. This is after the peak season for the warmer states and before the peak season for the colder ones.

The Department intends to conduct consultation sessions in all capital cities and in the following regional cities: Rockhampton/Townsville, Dubbo/Orange, Port Macquarie/Coffs Harbour, Bendigo/Shepparton and Launceston.

A choice will be made based on industry interest in the regions where two cities have been flagged. Should you live in regional Australia and have a preference as to where the consultation is held, please advise the Department using the contact details below.

A discussion paper will be released to inform this consultation. If you would like to register to receive a copy of this paper (and haven't already done so), please email rac@environment.gov.au or write to:

**Chris Young
Assistant Director
Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

The discussion paper has not been published yet.

If you have issues that you would like included in that discussion paper, please let the Department know using the contact details above. Due to the size of the industry and the range of issues affecting it, not every issue can be included in the discussion paper but if there are issues of concern to significant numbers of people in the industry, the Department is keen to know about them and to address them.





SPLIT-SYSTEMS

– the Department's response to the industry consultation process

In February this year, the Department of the Environment and Water Resources consulted with the RAC industry on the issue of unlicensed installation of split-system air conditioners. At the same time the Department surveyed the industry to obtain data on the extent of the problem.

Fewer than 25% of those surveyed responded and the data in those responses did not indicate a significant problem. Of the five options presented to the industry in the discussion paper, none received significant support. Therefore, the Department is not proposing to adopt any of the proposals from the discussion paper. However, the Department and the ARC are, in response to industry concerns raised during the consultation process:

- ▶ Educating consumers on the benefits of using licensed technicians (see 'Advertising the value of our industry to the public' on page one.

- ▶ Educating tradespeople on the requirement to have a licence – over 32,000 pamphlets have been sent to businesses that might be involved in split-system installation;
- ▶ Expanding the base of qualified and licensed technicians by investing \$1.2 million to assist technicians in rural and regional areas to have their competencies assessed and become qualified; and
- ▶ Providing information to technicians so that they can report equipment with substandard components (electrical at this stage) to the relevant authorities ('Electrical safety in appliances – state and territory information' on page four.)

The Department will continue to engage with the RAC industry on this issue.

If you would like to read a summary of the survey results and the comments received in response to the discussion paper, please visit the Department's website at www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/publications/split-systems.html

Restricted refrigerant handling licence for refrigerant decanters

The Department of the Environment and Water Resources is working together with various sectors of the industry to develop new competency-based restricted licences for handling refrigerant. These new licences will eventually replace the various existing transitional licences.

The first restricted licence to be developed is for refrigerant decanters. The Australian Refrigerant Wholesalers Association has played an important role in developing and refining suggested competencies for this licence.

The draft competencies for the licence are now available to be downloaded at www.arctick.org/news/pdf/Units_1_to_4_Wholesale_Competerencies.pdf

The Department is seeking comment from industry on the draft competencies for the licence. Please send any correspondence to rac@environment.gov.au by 15 January 2008. The Department intends to have the new licence finalised and available early in 2008.

If you do not have access to the internet and require a hard copy of the draft competencies for the licence, please contact the Department at rac@environment.gov.au or

Paul Farrelly
Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team
Department of the Environment and Water Resources
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

HCFC phase out – report on the Montreal Protocol meeting

At the 19th Meeting of Parties of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer held in Montreal, Canada in September this year, all countries agreed to work harder to phase out ozone depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which are commonly used in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry.

Developing countries must freeze their HCFC use in 2013, at no more than the average of their 2009 and 2010 use. Their use will reduce by 10% in 2015, 35% in 2020 and 67.5% in 2025.

They also have been allowed a servicing tail of 2.5% for the period 2030 to 2040, which will be reviewed in 2025.

... 'there will not be any need to change Australia's existing legislated HCFC phase-out schedule.'

For developed countries like Australia, the Montreal Protocol schedule was advanced so that by 2010, countries need to phase-out 75% of their baseline use of HCFCs and by

2015, 90% of the baseline needs to be phased out. The adjustment also allows for a 0.5% of baseline servicing tail until 2030. The 0.5% servicing tail will be reviewed in 2015.

In practice though, because Australia is so far in advance of our original Montreal Protocol obligations, there will not be any need to change Australia's existing legislated HCFC phase-out schedule. It will remain as is, and will allow Australian industry and users of HCFCs to continue its phase-out as agreed back in 1996.

Electrical safety in appliances – state and territory information

As a technician, are you being asked to install a piece of equipment that, in your opinion, does not meet Australia's electrical safety standards? What can you do about it?

All electrical equipment sold in Australia must meet Australian standards. However, split-system air conditioners, unlike many other electrical appliances, are not tested against Australia's electrical component standards prior to being sold. This means that it may be the technician that is the first person to notice that something is not right.

During consultations with the RAC industry on the issue of split-systems, it became apparent that technicians want to know where to send details of suspected sub-standard electrical components in manufactured equipment (e.g. air conditioners); components such as inter connecting wiring, 2.5mm² wiring from switchboard to unit, plug & power point. This list is not exhaustive, there could be others.

Electrical safety standards are the responsibility of state and territory governments. Neither the Department of the Environment and Water Resources in Canberra nor the ARC has the power to act on these issues.

Each state and territory has its own regulatory body and you will need to contact the relevant authority in your state or territory. The contact details are to the right.

If you need to make a report, you will need to include as many details about the product as possible such as the make, model number, serial number, distributor, location of equipment, digital photograph (if possible) and

which components you think do not meet the required standards.

NSW The Office of Fair Trading

T: 133 220 (ask for the Electrical Safety Unit). For compliance on electrical work (installation), call Steve Quinn in the Building Investigation Branch also on 133 220
E: steve.quinn@oft.commerce.nsw.gov.au

QLD Department of Employment & Industrial Relations, Electrical Safety Office

T: Infoline 1300 362 320
E: equipmentsafety@deir.qld.gov.au
Mail: GPO Box 69, Brisbane QLD 4001

SA Office of the Technical Regulator

T: 08 8226 5500
E: charlie.hoare@saugov.sa.gov.au

VIC Energy Safe Victoria

T: 03 9203 9700
E: info@esv.vic.gov.au
Mail: PO Box 262, Collins Street, West Melbourne VIC 8007

WA Energy Safety WA

T: 08 9422 5200 (ask for Electricity Directorate)
E: energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au

ACT ACT Planning & Land Authority

T: 02 6207 7161 (Dennis Harvey)
E: dennis.harvey@act.gov.au

TAS Office of Electricity Standards & Safety Tasmania

T: 03 6233 7585 (Tony Millhouse)
E: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

NT Department of Planning & Infrastructure

T: 08 8999 5081
E: electricalsafety@nt.gov.au

Have you changed address?

To keep you informed of issues relevant to your profession, we need your correct mailing address. We respectfully request that you advise us of any changes to your contact details via email to enquire@arctick.org

Prefer email?

If you would prefer to receive CoolChange via email, please email your details to coolchange@arctick.org

CoolChange is usually only sent to holders of a refrigerant trading authorisation. If you are a handling licence holder that has received this issue and would like to receive CoolChange in the future, sign on for ecopies by emailing your details to coolchange@arctick.org

Will your business be compliant at audit?

To meet the conditions of your Refrigerant Trading Authorisation and comply at audit, take the time to ensure you can show proof of the following:

- ▶ up to date records detailing the amounts of refrigerant bought, sold (in bulk, not installed into equipment) and recovered each quarter;
- ▶ quarterly cylinder leak test records;
- ▶ sufficient equipment necessary to prevent avoidable refrigerant emissions, including at least one of each of the following: recovery unit, vacuum pump and leak detector;
- ▶ quarterly records showing that equipment used to prevent the avoidable emission of refrigerant is operating correctly;
- ▶ a risk management plan for the premises and evidence it has been implemented;
- ▶ that individuals handling refrigerant possess a relevant Refrigerant Handling Licence;
- ▶ that all refrigerant containers are within test date; and
- ▶ that all cylinders that are owned or held on premises are properly capped.

For more information on the conditions of holding a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation or the Regulations visit www.arctick.org or call the ARC on 1300 88 44 83.