



FACTSHEET

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 Heat Pump – Split Systems – 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. This includes wall hung, cassette and ducted indoor units
- ✓ 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. Introducing additional refrigerant requires holding or affiliation* with a refrigerant trading authorisation (RTA)
- ✓ Commission the system after installation is completed
- ✓ Undertake removal of refrigerant from the system prior to decommissioning. Decommissioning requires restricted refrigerant trading authorisation (RRTA) affiliation* (as a minimum).

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 that involves accessing or handling refrigerant.

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.



*Affiliation

Affiliation for the purpose of this policy is defined as a licence holder having entered into an agreement (however described) with the holder of an RTA or an RRTA (as appropriate to the work to be carried out) at the time of making a representation that the licence holder can provide a service that involves the acquisition, disposal, storage, use or handling of refrigerant.

The affiliation must be agreed prior to the handling of the scheduled substance and would therefore be most easily verified after the fact through a written document.

A licence holder's affiliation to an RTA is usually demonstrated by employment or engagement, which includes listing employed licence holders on the RTA with the Australian Refrigeration Council, but could be demonstrated by another arrangement.

Where a licence holder is employed or engaged by an RTA holder, the RTA holder must have measures in place through their Risk Management Plan to ensure that the licence holders listed on their authorisation will act in accordance with the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Regulations.