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Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd



Australian Government

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FACTSHEET

Following the refrigerant handling Code of Practice

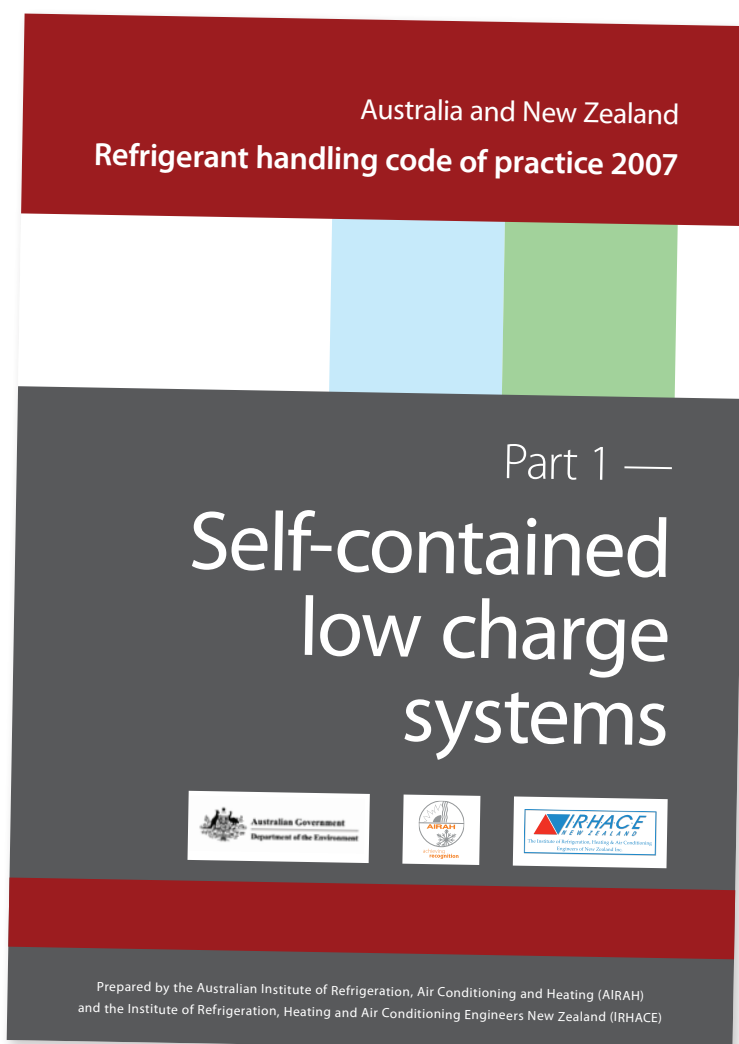
The Australian refrigerant handling Code of Practice 2007 provides mandatory and best practice guidelines for ARC-licensed technicians to handle fluorocarbon refrigerant under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995. The code of practice has been developed to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances into the atmosphere. This is consistent with Australia's obligations as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol.

If you have an ARCTick licence – you must follow the Code of Practice

All ARCTick licence holders must follow the mandatory practices outlined in the code of practice, and consider the best practice suggestions. The code of practice is incorporated into the regulations and mandates improved work practices, along with minimum standards for equipment design and manufacture.

All technicians, and in particular those new to the industry, should reference this tool when working. If you do not have a copy of the code of practice at your work, you can download a copy from the ARC website www.arctick.org/licensing/codes-of-practice/

ARC Field officers will check to see that the code of practice is being followed by licensed technicians during audits of authorised businesses, so it is important that businesses and individual licence holders are familiar with it's requirements.



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The Australian refrigerant handling Code of Practice 2007

The Australian refrigerant handling code of practice 2007 has two parts:

- **Part 1 – self-contained low charge systems** i.e. those systems that contain a fluorocarbon refrigerant charge of two kilograms or less and do not require any work to be done on the refrigeration system at the time of installation
- **Part 2 – systems other than self-contained low charge systems**

The code of practice applies to all refrigeration and air conditioning systems which use fluorocarbon refrigerant including heat pumps and transport refrigeration and air conditioning systems (excluding motor vehicle air conditioning systems).

The code of practice provides guidance on the following work and requirements:

- personnel – ensuring technicians handling refrigerant are appropriately licensed
- refrigerant venting
- design
 - design to an equivalent or better standard / mass-manufactured systems (Pt 2)
 - compressors
 - refrigerant condensers and evaporators
 - refrigerant pipelines and fittings
 - valves
 - relief device (Pt 2)
 - air purgers (negative pressure systems) (Pt 2)
 - pump down capability
 - charge monitors and leak detectors (Pt 2)
- manufacture and assembly
 - leak testing
 - charging of refrigerant
- providing information on installation, use and maintenance
- installation procedures
- evacuation
- commissioning (Pt 2)
- equipment servicing

- cleaning and flushing
- labelling
- maintenance
- retrofitting
- decommissioning
- recovery, recycling and disposal of refrigerants
 - during manufacture, installation and servicing
- handling and storage of refrigerants
 - charging
 - refrigerant transfer between cylinders
- dealing with the recovery of fluorocarbons mixed with other refrigerants
- fluorocarbon refrigerants
- safety group classifications

It's good for the environment!

Following the code of practice will ensure you are helping to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances into the atmosphere. Most air conditioning and refrigeration systems contain fluorocarbon refrigerant. This is an ozone depleting substance and synthetic greenhouse gas. If released into the atmosphere, fluorocarbon refrigerant can damage the ozone layer and contribute to global warming. The ozone layer protects life on earth by absorbing ultra-violet (UV) radiation from the sun. UV radiation is linked to skin cancer, genetic damage and immune suppression in humans and other living organisms.

Discharging fluorocarbon refrigerant is illegal under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and penalties of up to \$66,600 for individuals and \$333,000 for corporations may apply. Only ARC-licensed technicians can handle and trade fluorocarbon refrigerant in Australia.

About the ARC

The Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd (ARC) administers refrigerant handling licences and refrigerant trading authorisations on behalf of the Australian Government. They provide licences and authorisations to professionals in the refrigeration/air conditioning industry. To enquire about applying for a licence visit www.arctick.org or call 1300 884 483.