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Australian Refrigeration Council Ltd



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

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FACTSHEET

The Australian automotive code of practice 2008

The *Australian automotive code of practice 2008* provides mandatory and best practice guidelines for ARC-licensed technicians to handle fluorocarbon refrigerant. The code of practice has been developed under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*. The code of practice is not a technical document and must be used with other standards and codes of practice, particularly *AS 4211.1 – 1996 Gas recovery or combined recovery and recycling equipment – Fluorocarbon refrigerants from automotive air conditioning systems*.

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 for further work.

The code of practice is incorporated into the regulations and mandates improved work practices, along with minimum standards for equipment design and manufacture. You must comply with the code of practice under Regulation 135 of the Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations.

All technicians, and in particular those new to the industry should reference this tool. 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/

Users of the code of practice should refer to the relevant motor vehicle or air conditioning service manual for details of specific systems. Where there are contradictory instructions, the code of practice takes precedence over other instructions or manuals.

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 the requirements.



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The Australian automotive code of practice 2008

The Australian automotive code of practice 2008 is relevant to a number of vehicle categories:

- passenger cars
- forward control passenger vehicles
- off-road passenger vehicles
- registered commercial vehicles and omnibuses
- any other off-road vehicle, including tractors and farm machinery fitted with an air conditioning system of a type normally used in the above category of vehicles
- automotive plant & equipment
- any other self-propelled vehicle, which has a cabin fitted with a type of air conditioner normally fitted to one of the vehicle types listed above.

The code of practice provides guidance on operating, servicing and repairing motor vehicle air conditioners and includes procedures for recovery and recycling of refrigerants to control emissions of refrigerant gases. Specifically, it covers the following areas:

- licensed service person
- preliminary inspection
- 'topping up' of air conditioning systems
- equipment
- recovery, recycling and re-gas equipment
- equipment operating instructions
- safety requirements and functional description
- de-gassing
- oil
- cleaning
- filter/dryer and accumulators
- pressure/temperature relief
- hoses
- connections
- compressor
- filling and charging equipment
- evacuation and re-gassing process
- leak detection
- advice to vehicle owner/operator
- storage
- de-commissioning
- retrofitting

It's good for the environment!

Following the code of practice will help to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances into the atmosphere. Most car air conditioning systems contain fluorocarbon refrigerant which 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.