

AIM Act Technology Transition Rule - Restrictions on the Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons under Subsection (i) of the AIM Act of 2020

EPA's final rule for the technology transition prohibits the installation of new refrigeration systems that use higher-GWP HFCs starting in Jan. 2026 or 2027. Self-contained refrigeration equipment using higher-GWP HFCs cannot be manufactured after Jan. 1, 2025. EPA is not mandating the replacement of any equipment that is currently in use.

In total, the rule restricts the use of certain higher global warming potential (GWP) HFCs in aerosols, foams, and new refrigeration, air-conditioning, and heat pump products and equipment.

The American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act was enacted on December 27, 2020. The Act authorizes EPA to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in three main ways:

- By phasing down their production and consumption. This will restrict the supply of these refrigerants and cause their prices to rise.
- By maximizing reclamation and minimizing releases from equipment.
- By facilitating the transition to next-generation technologies through sector-based restrictions.

Subsector	GWP Limit	Compliance Date
Retail food refrigeration – stand-alone (i.e., self-contained) units	150	January 1, 2025
Retail food refrigeration – supermarket systems with refrigerant charge of 200 pounds or greater	150	January 1, 2027
Retail food refrigeration – supermarket systems with refrigerant charge of less than 200 pounds or high temperature side of cascade system	300	January 1, 2027
Retail food refrigeration – remote condensing units with refrigerant charge of 200 pounds or greater	150	January 1, 2026
Retail food refrigeration – remote condensing units with refrigerant charge of less than 200 pounds or high temperature side of cascade system	300	January 1, 2026
Cold storage warehouse systems with refrigerant charge of 200 pounds or greater	150	January 1, 2026
Cold storage warehouse systems with refrigerant charge of less than 200 pounds or high temperature side of cascade system	300	January 1, 2026
Residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pump systems	700	January 1, 2025

Important Details:

- EPA is not mandating the replacement of any equipment that is currently in use, regardless of the date of manufacture or installation.
- A product or system may be serviced and repaired throughout its useful life including the replacement of components such as condensing units, condensers, compressors, evaporators, and display cases.
- A remodeled refrigeration system is considered “new refrigeration equipment” subject to the regulations when 75 percent of the evaporators and 100 percent of its compressor racks, condensers, and connected evaporator loads have been replaced or when the total cooling capacity of the system is increased.

SNAP Rule 26 - Listing of Refrigerants under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program in Commercial and Industrial Refrigeration

A refrigerant must be SNAP listed by EPA as acceptable for an end use before it can be used in the U.S. in that application.

What is in SNAP Rule 26?

- Lists 10 refrigerants as acceptable¹, subject to use conditions (8 shown below)
- Modifies use conditions for R-290 (propane) allowing for a charge size increase
- References latest versions of UL 60335-2-89 and ASHRAE 15-2022 as part of use conditions

The listings in SNAP Rule 26 support the technology transition away from HFCs shown on the left side of the page.

SNAP was established in the early 1990's under Section 612 of the Clean Air Act to identify and evaluate substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. The program looks at overall risks to human health and the environment of existing and new substitutes, publishes lists and promotes the use of acceptable substances, and provides the public with information.

End Use ¹	Refrigerants Allowed ²
Retail food refrigeration (New) – stand-alone (i.e., self-contained) units	R-290 - charge size increase per system from 150g to 304g for closed equipment or 494g for open equipment
Retail food refrigeration (New) – stand-alone (i.e., self-contained) units	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A, R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A
Retail food refrigeration (New) – supermarket systems and remote condensing units	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A ³ , R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A
Cold storage warehouses (New)	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A ³ , R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A

¹ Other end uses in SNAP 26 include Industrial Process Refrigeration, Commercial Ice Machines, Refrigerated Processing and Dispensing Equipment, and Ice-Skating Rinks. See complete rule for details on these subsectors. <https://www.epa.gov/snap/regulations-proposed-rules-and-final-rules-determined-epa#Rules>

² To use these refrigerants in these applications, the equipment must be designed according to UL Standard 60335-2-89, 2nd ed. and installed according to ASHRAE Standard 15-2022.

³ R-454A may only be used in equipment with a refrigerant charge capacity less than 200 pounds, or in the high-temperature side of a cascade system for Cold Storage Warehouses and for Retail Food Refrigeration—Supermarket Systems and Remote Condensing Units.