

Washington State’s Proposed Regulations: New Equipment Refrigerant Bans Fact Sheet* for Supermarket End-Users (Commercial HVACR)

Applies To:

- New refrigeration equipment with a full charge >50 lbs. in new and existing facilities.
- All new HVAC equipment, regardless of charge size.
- Existing high-GWP HVACR systems can continue to operate with those refrigerants as long as all leaks can be repaired.

Especially Noteworthy:

- As of 1/1/25, replacing a large percentage of an existing HVACR system with new components, increasing the nominal compressor capacity, or retrofitting a system may turn the existing system into “New Equipment”, which triggers the refrigerant bans below.

GWP Limits for New Refrigeration Equipment w/Full Charge >50 Lbs. in New/Existing Facilities

End-Use	Prohibited Refrigerants	Effective Date
Retail Food Refrigeration	GWP ≥ 150	1/1/25
Cold Storage Warehouses	GWP ≥ 150	1/1/25

- GWP limits only apply to refrigeration systems with full charges >50 lbs.
- New refrigeration equipment includes a system in a new facility; a system in an existing facility that undergoes a retrofit; an addition or modification that increases the nominal compressor capacity of a system in an existing facility; new construction in an existing facility not previously used for cold storage, retail food refrigeration, or commercial refrigeration; or a system in an existing facility that is modified such that the system undergoes cumulative replacement of 75% or more of its evaporators (by number) and 100% of its compressor racks, condensers, and connected evaporator loads.

GWP Limits for New Air Conditioning Equipment in New/Existing Facilities

End-Use	Prohibited Refrigerants	Effective Date
Air conditioning equipment other than room air conditioners and variable refrigerant flow systems	GWP ≥ 750	1/1/28

- GWP limits apply regardless of full charge size.
- New air conditioning equipment includes a system in a new facility; a system in an existing facility that undergoes a retrofit; a system in an existing facility with a single condenser and single evaporator that has a new exterior condenser, condensing unit, or remote condensing unit; or a system in an existing facility with more than one condenser or more than one evaporator that is modified such that the system undergoes cumulative replacement of 75% or more of its indoor evaporator units (by number) and 100% of its air source or water source condensing units.

Refrigerant Prohibitions – New Chillers and Ice Machines

End-Use	Prohibited Refrigerants	Effective Date
Air Conditioning Centrifugal chillers - heating and heating and cooling (New)	FOR12A, FOR12B, HFC-134a, HFC-227ea, HFC236fa, HFC-245fa, R-125/134a/600a (28.1/70/1.9), R-125/290/134a/600a (55.0/1.0/42.5/1.5), R-404A, R-407C, R-410A, R410B, R-417A, R-421A, R-422B, R-422C, R-422D, R-423A, R-424A, R-434A, R-438A, R-507A, RS-44 (2003 composition), THR-03	1/1/25
Air Conditioning Positive displacement chillers – heating and heating and cooling (New)	FOR12A, FOR12B, HFC-134a, HFC-227ea, KDD6, R-125/134a/600a (28.1/70/1.9), R125/290/134a/600a (55.0/1.0/42.5/1.5), R-404A, R-407C, R-410A, R-410B, R-417A, R-421A, R422B, R-422C, R-422D, R-424A, R-434A, R-437A, R-438A, R-507A, RS-44 (2003 composition), SP34E, THR-03	1/1/25
Automatic commercial ice machines - remote condensing units (New and retrofit)	R-404A, R-507, R-507A, R-428A, R-422C, R-434A, R-421B, R-408A, R-422A, R-407B, R-402A, R422D, R-421A, R-125/R-290/R-134a/R-600a (55/1/42.5/1.5), R-422B, R-424A, R-402B, GHGX5, R-417A, R-438A, and R-410B	1/1/25
Automatic commercial ice machines – standalone units (New and retrofit)	R-404A, R-507, R-507A, R-428A, R-422C, R-434A, R-421B, R-408A, R-422A, R-407B, R-402A, R422D, R-421A, R-125/R-290/R-134a/R-600a (55/1/42.5/1.5), R-422B, R-424A, R-402B, GHGX5, R-417A, R-438A, R-410B, R-407A, R-410A, R442A, R-417C, R-407F, R-437A, R-407C, RS-24 (2004 formulation), and HFC-134a	1/1/25

*This fact sheet is a summary of very complex and lengthy proposed regulations. It focuses on HVACR equipment commonly found in supermarkets. This fact sheet is provided to help supermarket end-users prepare for and participate in the upcoming WA State Public Hearing on 8/24/23 and is not meant to be a substitute for reading the regulatory text.