



AIM Act Ruling: What it means for RETAILERS

What is the AIM Act?

The American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act), passed in 2020 directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to oversee the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerant production and consumption and transition to alternative refrigerants. It includes a phasedown schedule that began in 2022 and continues to 2036.

In October, the EPA announced its final ruling on the Technology Transition Rule, affecting several industries.

The new rule:

- sets a maximum Global Warming Potential (GWP) limit on HFCs or HFC blends that can be used.
- prohibits the manufacture and import of products that use higher GWP Cs after January 1, 2025.
- prohibits the sale, distribution, and export of these products after January 1, 2028
- prohibits the installation of new systems that use higher-GWP HFCs.

What we know

- A **product** is a type of appliance with a sealed refrigerant loop that simply needs to be plugged in, mounted, or hooked to a water line. A **system** is an assemblage of separate components that typically are connected and charged in the field with a regulated substance or substitute to perform a function or task
- EPA will allow the **repair** of appliances unless the repair results in a new system
- Automatic leak detection will be required on certain new and existing equipment
- Display cases are components and can be replaced regardless of manufacture date.

Benefits

Emission Reduction

876 Million
metric tons of CO₂

Climate change mitigation benefits

\$50.4 Billion

Cost Savings to Consumers & Businesses

\$4.5 Billion

Compliance Date	Subsector	Products	GWP Limit
01/01/25	Self Contained "stand-alone unit"	Retail food- refrigeration stand-alone units	150
01/01/26	Remote condensing units <small>*Zero Zone Hybrid display cases*</small>	With 200 or more lb refrigerant charge, excluding high temp side of cascade system	150
		With less than 200 lb refrigerant charge	300
		High temp side of cascade system	300
01/01/27	All retail systems	With 200 or more lb refrigerant charge, excluding high temp side of cascade system	150
		With less than 200 lb refrigerant charge	300
		High temp side of cascade system	300

How does this affect you?

Your current manufacturer, distributor, or installer will not be able to import, export, or sell you HFC refrigeration systems by the compliance date of your applicable subsector. For example, grocery stores will not be able to buy freezers or coolers with R-404A or R-448A.

Allowable low-GWP refrigerants include CO₂, A2L, Ammonia, and Propane

Service of Legacy Systems

This rule does not restrict customers from using their existing refrigeration systems. The EPA has allowed for an existing system to continue its operation to the end of their useful life. The systems may be serviced and repaired throughout their use, including replacing components.

The following actions are considered a new installation:

- Assembling a system for the first time from used or new components
- Increasing the cooling capacity, in BTU per hour, of an existing system
- Replacing 75 percent or more of evaporators (by number) and 100 percent of the compressor racks, condensers, and connected evaporator loads of an existing system.



Read more on the EPA website



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