

AIM ACT - EPA REGULATIONS ON HFCs

EPA's Technology Transition Rule



The American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act was enacted on December 27, 2020. The AIM Act authorizes EPA to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in three main ways: phasing down their production and consumption, maximizing reclamation and minimizing releases from equipment, and facilitating the transition to next-generation technologies through sector-based restrictions. EPA's final rule for the technology transition was signed on Oct. 5, 2023. The Agency is restricting the use of

certain higher-GWP HFCs in aerosols, foams, and new refrigeration, air-conditioning, and heat pump products and equipment. The GWP limits for commercial refrigeration and some A/C applications are shown in the table below. The rule prohibits the installation* of new refrigeration systems that use higher-GWP HFCs starting in Jan. 2026 or 2027. Self-contained refrigeration equipment that uses higher-GWP HFCs cannot be manufactured after Jan. 1, 2025.

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.
- *A remote system is “installed” when the field-assembled system’s circuit is completed, including charged with a full charge, such that the system can function and is ready for use for its intended purpose.

† This table does not contain all sectors within the final rule. Please review the rule or speak to your Hussmann representative to see how it will affect your entire operation.

