
Refrigerant Recovery from Motor Vehicles

40 CFR 82 Subpart F

Do these regulations apply to my operation?

These regulations apply to anyone performing service on motor vehicles when that service involves the refrigerant in motor vehicle air conditioners (MVACs).

General Requirements

- **Refrigerant:** Must be approved by EPA and intentionally releasing (venting) refrigerants to the environment is strictly prohibited.
- **Servicing:** When payment or non-monetary exchange of any kind is involved, all personnel working on MVAC systems must be trained and certified under Section 609 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) by an EPA-approved organization and must use EPA-approved refrigerant handling equipment.
- **Reusing Refrigerant:** Refrigerant must be properly recycled or reclaimed before it can be reused, even if it is returned to the same vehicle.

Definitions

- **Recovery:** Removing refrigerant in any condition from MVACs and storing it in an external container without testing or processing it in any way.
- **Recycling:** Using EPA-certified equipment to remove impurities and oil and then recharging the refrigerant into either the same vehicle or a different vehicle. Recycling occurs onsite.
- **Reclamation:** Removing all impurities and oil beyond that provided by on-site recycling equipment, and reprocessing refrigerants using the [ARI Standard 700-2016 Specifications for Refrigerants](#) to a point that they are identical to new, unused refrigerants. Reclamation occurs at the manufacturing facility or a reclamation facility.

Benefits of Recovery, Recycling or Reclaiming Refrigerants

- Maintain compliance with environmental regulations.
- Recovery allows for the proper handling, storage and processing of recovered refrigerants.
- Recycling cleans the refrigerant of contaminants such as oil, air and water, allowing for the reuse.
- Reclamation removes impurities and produces a clean, essentially new, unused refrigerant for reuse.
- Prevents the release of ozone damaging GHGs, protecting people and the environment.

EPA-Approved Refrigerant Recovery/Recycling Equipment

- Refrigerant recovery/recycling equipment must be approved by the EPA or certified by an EPA-approved independent standards testing organization.
- No one repairing or serving MVACs or MVAC-like appliances may perform service involving refrigerant for MVAC or MVAC-like appliances without using EPA-approved refrigerant recover/recycling equipment.
- The EPA maintains a list of approved equipment by manufacturer and model. A current list can be from the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-certified-equipment>

Converting Equipment

- Technicians are prohibited from using fittings interchangeably on the same recovery or recycling equipment to allow the same unit to recover or recycle different types of refrigerants.
- Each new refrigerant must be managed with a unique set of fittings to prevent the accidental mixing of different refrigerants. These requirements can be found here: [MVAC Refrigerants Fitting Sizes and Label Colors](#)
- Equipment that is converted for use with a new refrigerant must be able to meet the applicable equipment standards set forth in EPA regulations.
- If the car is retrofitted for a different refrigerant, any service fittings not converted to the new refrigerant must be permanently disabled.
- Unique fittings must be permanently attached to the ends of hoses that attach to vehicle air conditioning systems and recovery or recycling equipment.
- A car designed to use a new refrigerant, or a car that is retrofitted, must have a label applied that gives specific information about the alternative refrigerant.
- The original refrigerant must be removed from the retrofitted system before charging with the new refrigerant.
- When using blends that contain HCFC-22, barrier hoses must be installed if the current system has non-barrier hoses.

Recovery and Recycling Blend Refrigerants

- Technicians may permanently dedicate an older piece of equipment to recover blend refrigerants, contaminated CFC-12 and HFC-134a, and other unknown mixtures.
 - » This equipment cannot be used to recover uncontaminated CFC-12 or HFC-134a.
 - » Refrigerant recovered using this equipment must be shipped off site for reclamation or destruction
- Technicians may also use a new piece of EPA-certified equipment to recover, but not recycle, any single specific blend equipment.
- Blend refrigerants in MVACs may be recycled provided that the recycling equipment meets the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard 2964, and the refrigerant is returned to the vehicle from which it was removed except for fleet vehicles with a common owner.
 - » Blend refrigerant recovered from fleet vehicles with a common owner may be used among vehicles in the same fleet.
- A current list of approved blends can be found here: [Compositions of Refrigerant Blends](#)

Flammable Refrigerants

- The use of flammable refrigerants is prohibited.
- Refrigerants sold under the names of 'Duracool 12a,' 'HC-12a,' 'OZ-12,' 'Envirosafe,' 'MaxiFrig,' and 'Permafreeze' are flammable refrigerants and are not EPA approved substitutes.
- Federal, state, local agencies and local fire codes also often restrict the storage of flammable materials.

Technician Training Certification

- No one repairing or servicing MVACs or MVAC-like appliances may perform service involving refrigerant without being properly trained and certified by an EPA-approved technician certification program.
- If a technician is already trained and certified to handle CFC-12, then the technician does not need to be recertified to handle HFC-134a.
- If a technician is already trained and certified to handle CFC-12 or HFC-134a, then the technician does not need to be recertified to handle refrigerant blends.
- The EPA maintains a list of approved technician certification programs. A current list can be obtained from the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-technician-training-and-certification-programs>

Certification Requirements

- Anyone repairing or servicing MVACs shall certify to the EPA that each person has acquired and is properly using EPA-approved equipment and that each person using this equipment has been properly trained and certified by an EPA-approved organization. An EPA MVAC Servicing Certification Form can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/mvac/mvac-servicing-certification-form>
- Certification will be a signed statement provided by the owner of the equipment or another responsible individual and will contain the name of the purchaser of the equipment, the address where the equipment will be located, the manufacturer and equipment model number, the date of manufacture, and the serial number of the equipment.
- The certification also contains a statement that the equipment will be properly used in servicing MVACs, that each person using the equipment is properly trained and certified, and that the information provided is true and correct.
- Certification is a one-time requirement. If an entity purchased refrigerant recovery/recycling equipment and submitted the certification to the EPA, the entity does not need to send a second certification to the EPA if it purchases a second piece of equipment, no matter what refrigerant that equipment is designed to handle.
- Certificates of compliance are not transferable. If ownership of an entity ever changes, the new owner shall provide the required certification within 30 days of the change of ownership.

Record Keeping

Anyone who owns EPA-approved refrigerant recovery/recycling equipment must:

- Maintain records of the name and address of any facility to which refrigerant is sent for reclamation.
- Maintain records demonstrating that all persons using the equipment are properly trained and certified.
- Maintain records for 3 years unless otherwise indicated.
- Allow the EPA or a representative of the EPA entry onto the premises and give access to all records when requested.

Sales Restrictions

- No person may sell or distribute, or offer for sale or distribution, any substance that consists in whole or in part of refrigerants or any non-exempt substitute for use as a refrigerant unless:
 - » The buyer is an EPA-approved Section 609 certified technician or employs at least one certified technician.
 - » The refrigerant is sold only for eventual resale to a certified person or appliance manufacturer (e.g. sold by a technician to a reclaimer).
 - » The refrigerant is sold to an appliance manufacturer or contained in an intact, fully assembled appliance.
- Anyone who conducts retail sales of refrigerant in a MVAC that is in a container of less than 20 pounds must prominently display a sign that states:

“It is a violation of federal law to sell containers of Class I and Class II refrigerant of less than 20 pounds of such refrigerant to anyone who is not properly trained and certified to operate approved refrigerant recycling equipment.”

*The Iowa Waste Reduction Center can assist your small business.
Please contact the IWRC at 319-273-8905 for free, non-regulatory and confidential environmental assistance.*

**MVAC RECOVER, RECOVER/RECYCLE OR RECOVER/RECYCLE/RECHARGE
EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION FORM**

1 _____
NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT

STREET

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

SEND THIS FORM TO THE EPA
REGIONAL OFFICE LISTED UNDER
YOUR STATE OR TERRITORY IN
WHICH THE ESTABLISHMENT IS
LOCATED.

MAILING ADDRESSES CAN BE
FOUND ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF
THIS FORM.

2 _____
NAME OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER & MODEL NUM

SERIAL NUMBER(S) YEAR

3 I certify that I have approved recover,
recover/recycle, or recover/recycle/recharge
equipment under Section 609 of the Clean Air
Act. I certify that only properly trained and
certified technicians operate the equipment and
that the information given above is true and
correct.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER/OPERATOR DATE

NAME (PRINT) TITLE

**MVAC RECOVER, RECOVER/RECYCLE OR RECOVER/RECYCLE/RECHARGE
EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

Motor vehicle refrigerant recover, recover/recycle, or recover/recycle/recharge equipment must be acquired by January 1, 1992 and certified to EPA on or before January 1, 1993 under Section 609 of the Clean Air Act. To certify your equipment, please complete the above form according to the following instructions and mail to the appropriate EPA region based on where your establishment is located.

- 1 Please provide the name, address, and telephone number of the establishment where the equipment is located.
- 2 Please provide the name brand, model number, year and serial number(s) of the equipment acquired for use at the above establishment.
- 3 The certification statement must be signed by the person who has acquired the equipment (the person may be the owner of the establishment or another responsible officer). The person who signs is certifying that they have acquired the equipment, that each individual authorized to use the equipment is properly trained and certified, and that the information provided is true and correct.

SEND YOUR CERTIFICATION FORM TO:

EPA Region 7
CAA section 609 Enforcement
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219