



## Breaking News

# Rheem Government Affairs

December 9, 2022

## EPA Draft Rule on AIM Technology Transitions

### ***GWP Limits Proposed for HVACR Applications***

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pre-published a draft rule outlining global warming potential (GWP) limits and refrigerant prohibitions in various applications that use hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This action is expected as part of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act) of 2020.

- The proposed limit for new residential and light commercial **air conditioning** is 700 GWP, with a compliance date of January 1, 2025 (1/1/2026 for VRF)
- **Commercial refrigeration** limits of 150 and 300 GWP will depend on refrigerant charge size and have a compliance date of January 1, 2025 for new equipment.
- EPA is not proposing any regulatory requirements with respect to **heat pump water heaters** in this rulemaking but specifically requests information on the use of low-GWP alternatives
- The compliance dates apply to new equipment based on date of manufacture or import, with additional restrictions on the sale and distribution of such equipment one year after the compliance date (*i.e. one year sell-through of existing inventory*)

**A list of GWP limits by application can be found on the next page.**

It is important to note that this is not yet a final rule. EPA will accept comments on this proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register and will hold a virtual public hearing to accept stakeholder feedback. A final rule is expected in 2023.

## Key Takeaways

EPA proposes GWP limits for HVACR applications as part of the AIM legislation to phase down the use of HFCs.

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GWP limits would apply to new equipment based on date of manufacture, with a one-year sell through period for existing inventory.

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Heat pump water heaters are not included in the scope of the draft rule, but EPA seeks comment on future inclusion.

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For more information on the draft rule, fact sheet, and virtual public hearing, see the rulemaking page:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/technology-transitions>



## Proposed GWP Limit Restrictions on HFCs by Sector

Equipment Sectors	Proposed GWP Limit	Compliance Date
Residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pump systems*	700	January 1, 2025
Residential and light commercial air conditioning – variable refrigerant flow systems	700	January 1, 2026
Residential dehumidifiers	700	January 1, 2025
Retail food refrigeration – remote condensing units with refrigerant charge capacities of 200 pounds or greater	150	January 1, 2025
Retail food refrigeration – remote condensing units with refrigerant charge capacities less than 200 pounds	300	January 1, 2025
Cold storage warehouse systems with refrigerant charge capacities of 200 pounds or greater	150	January 1, 2025
Cold storage warehouse systems with refrigerant charge capacities less than 200 pounds	300	January 1, 2025
Cold storage warehouse, high temperature side of cascade system	300	January 1, 2025

\*Includes central AC/HP, rooftop AC, mini- and multi-split AC/HP, window AC, PTACs and PTHPs, and portable AC

