



Breaking News

Rheem Government Affairs

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EPA Finalizes SNAP Rule 26

Refrigerant Substitutes Approved for Commercial Refrigeration

On May 22, 2024, EPA Administrator Michael Regan signed *Final Rule 26 - Listing of Substitutes under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program in Commercial and Industrial Refrigeration*. This action approves 10 refrigerant substitutes for refrigeration, subject to use conditions. (See next page for details.)

The rule references the latest version of UL 60335-2-89, ASHRAE 15-2022, and ASHRAE 34-2022, which provide for class A2L refrigerants in this end-use. This is a critical step in the HFC phasedown for refrigeration, where SNAP approval is necessary in order for low-GWP refrigerants to be used.

EPA applies additional restrictions for refrigerants such as R-454A, R-454B, and R-32, when used in commercial and industrial refrigeration. In certain cases, these restrictions can limit use to ultra low-temperature applications or where the refrigerant charge capacity is <200 lbs.

The rule also updates use conditions for the refrigerant R-290 (propane) in new self-contained commercial ice machines and new stand-alone equipment. The revised conditions set maximum charge sizes calculated based on UL 60335-2-89, which allows up to roughly 500 g of R-290 for open stand-alone units, or roughly 300 g for those with doors and drawers. These changes permit the use of R-290 in larger equipment than previously allowed.

The rule also exempts propane in this end-use from the venting prohibitions found in section 608 of the Clean Air Act.

An advance copy of the rule is available at www.epa.gov/snap/snap-regulations, which will be updated once the rule is published in the Federal Register.

Key Takeaways

EPA has approved low-GWP refrigerant alternatives for use in commercial and industrial refrigerant applications.

EPA approval of refrigerant substitutes is necessary to enable compliance with the AIM Technology Transitions rule, which set GWP limits for refrigeration applications.

See EPA fact sheet:

<https://www.epa.gov/snap/fact-sheet-final-rule-26-listing-substitutes-under-significant-new-alternatives-policy-program>



Summary of EPA SNAP Rule 26

ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES, WITH USE CONDITIONS

End-Use	Substitutes	Conditions ¹
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning		
Commercial Ice Machines (New)	HFC-32, ² HFO-1234yf, R-454A, ² R-454B, ² R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Industrial Process Refrigeration (New)	HFC-32, ³ HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A, ⁴ R-454B, ³ R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Cold Storage Warehouses (New)	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A, ⁵ R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Ice Skating Rinks (New)	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Retail Food Refrigeration (New)—Refrigerated Food Processing and Dispensing Equipment and Stand-alone Units	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Retail Food Refrigeration (New)—Refrigerated Food Processing and Dispensing Equipment	R-290 (propane)	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions
Retail Food Refrigeration (New)—Supermarket Systems and Remote Condensing Units	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze(E), R-454A, ⁵ R-454C, R-455A, R-457A, R-516A	Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions

¹ For specific use conditions for substitutes listed as Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions, consult the final rule.

² HFC-32, R-454A, and R-454B may only be used in self-contained Commercial Ice Machines with batch-type ice harvest rates greater than 1,000 lb of ice per 24 hours, in self-contained Commercial Ice Machines with continuous-type ice harvest rates greater than 1,200 lb of ice per 24 hours, or in remote Commercial Ice Machines.

³ HFC-32 and R-454B may only be used in Industrial Process Refrigeration chillers and direct expansion Industrial Process Refrigeration equipment with exiting fluid refrigerant temperatures entering the evaporator less than or equal to -30° C.

⁴ R-454A may only be used in chillers for Industrial Process Refrigeration, or in direct expansion Industrial Process Refrigeration equipment with the refrigerant temperature entering the evaporator less than or equal to -30° C, in equipment with a refrigerant charge capacity less than 200 pounds and with the refrigerant temperature entering the evaporator higher than -30° C, and in the high-temperature side of a cascade system with the refrigerant temperature entering the evaporator higher than -30° C.

⁵ R-454A may only be used in equipment with a refrigerant charge capacity less than 200 pounds, or in the high-temperature side of a cascade system for Cold Storage Warehouses and for Retail Food Refrigeration—Supermarket Systems and Remote Condensing Units.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/snap/snap-regulations

