

R22 REFRIGERANT LEGISLATION



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Refrigerant legislation: the situation

- Air con systems installed before 1 January 2004 may use R22 refrigerant
- After 1 January 2004 all-new systems had to use a 'modern' refrigerant eg R410a
- New legislation bans the use of new R22 refrigerant in servicing existing equipment

COUNTDOWN TO COMPLIANCE

Jan 2004

1

Ban on the introduction and supply of new air conditioning systems operating on R22

Dec 2009

31

Supply of new R22 refrigerant used to service RAC equipment is banned

Jan 2010

1

Only reclaimed or recycled R22 refrigerant may be used from January 2010 until 31 December 2014

Jan 2013

1

Following the phase-out, the cost of R22 refrigerant could quadruple in price year on year, and supplies of recycled R22 could run out by 2013

Dec 2014

1

Systems operating on R22 refrigerant will be classed as 'not serviceable'

Dec 2014

31

A complete ban on R22 refrigerant, including reclaimed or recycled, comes into force

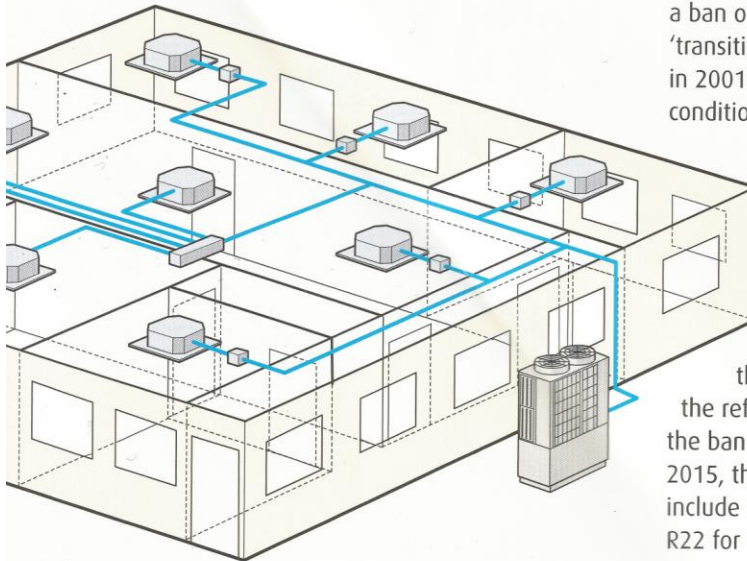
Doing nothing is not an option, so make sure your business has a phase-out plan in place



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Classed as a greenhouse gas, a ban on the use of R22 refrigerants will soon come into force. Is your business ready?



BACKGROUND TO THE BAN

In the continuing bid to beat global warming, new legislation is enforcing the removal and replacement of R22 refrigerants which have been shown to have a detrimental effect on the ozone layer. The EC Ozone Regulation provides the legislative framework for EU member states to meet their obligations to halt damage to the ozone layer. A programme to phase out ozone-depleting substances began in the 1990s with a ban on the most harmful CFCs, such as R12. This was followed by a ban on new equipment using 'transitional' CFCs, which include R22, in 2001 (2004 for smaller air conditioning systems).

THE NEXT DEADLINE

Up until the end of 2009 it was still legal to use virgin R22 to service and maintain existing RAC equipment. However, from 1 January 2010, this has become illegal, even if the refrigerant was purchased before the ban came into force. From 1 January 2015, the legislation will be extended to include the use of recycled or reclaimed R22 for servicing.

REPLACE OR REPAIR

The majority of those affected by the legislation have taken the opportunity to comply with the new regulations before compliance becomes mandatory. New RAC installations will only use refrigerants with zero ozone depleting potential, like R410a. Also, many companies have chosen to replace their existing R22 systems with units using environmentally friendly refrigerants rather than incur the cost of servicing and repairs.

PHASE-OUT PLAN

With time running out, companies are advised to formulate a phase-out strategy now, starting with the identification of all their units which use HCFC refrigerants. The decision to replace, convert, or leave as-is can then be made based on criteria such as system type, age, condition, and, last but not least, energy efficiency. Replacing systems with equipment that uses an eco-friendly refrigerant, like R410a, may well be the most cost-effective option for some old, inefficient systems. In addition to complying with current – and forecast – legislation, the cost of replacement will bring savings in operational electricity costs through improved energy efficiency.

Replacement Options

In some cases it's not possible to re-use your existing components, making a full system replacement the only available solution. This involves replacing all parts of your air conditioning system, including outdoor and indoor units, pipework and electrical wiring. It ensures you have the most up to date equipment with the lowest running costs.

There is another solution available which is to Replace Outdoor and Indoor Units only.

By reusing your existing R22 pipework, wiring and power supply, we could cut the installation costs by up to 55% and save time on the installation.

You will see major improvements to performance, energy efficiency and running costs, all backed with 5 years warranty for peace of mind.

All major manufacturers offer partial R22 replacement solutions.

Contact us today for a free site survey.

