

Deadlines approaching for owners of large refrigeration systems in California

A California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulation to minimize leaks of “high global warming potential” refrigerants established the following requirements and deadlines for owners/operators of systems using 2,000 or more pounds of these refrigerants:

- **January 1, 2012:** Automatic leak detection systems must be installed.
- **March 1, 2012:** Facility registration, fee payment and annual report due.

The regulation, known as the Refrigerant Management Program, also requires distributors, wholesalers and reclaimers of any amount of highglobal warming refrigerant to register and submit annual reports by March 1, 2012. Please visit website below for additional requirements.

Common refrigerants subject to the rule include, but are not limited to: R-12, R-22, R-134a, R-404A, R-407C, R-410A, and R-507. These high-global warming refrigerants are thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping the Earth’s heat in the atmosphere. Refrigeration systems that use ammonia or carbon dioxide are not subject to the rule. Air conditioners and other systems used exclusively for cooling building occupants do not need to be registered, but are still subject to required service practices.

How do I register?

Registration opens January 2012. Online registration will be available. Check CARB’s Refrigerant Management Program website for upcoming training webinars on how to use the Refrigerant Registration and Reporting (R3) Tool.

For more information on registration and reporting requirements:

www.arb.ca.gov/StopRefrigerantLeaks, email reftrackinfo@arb.ca.gov or call (916) 324-2517.