

ISSUE BRIEF | Final Rule: EPA SNAP to prohibit the use of certain refrigerants, foam-blowing agents

July 30, 2015

What change(s) have been finalized?

Certain refrigerants and foam-blowing agents, currently used by NAFEM members and other industries, have been prohibited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under a Final Rule to its Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program. SNAP is intended to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.

How will this change impact my business?

Under the Final Rule, read into the Federal Register July 20, specific refrigerants and foam-blowing agents will no longer be acceptable in a number of retail food refrigeration categories as follows:

- **Retrofitted supermarket systems:** R-404A, R-407B, R-421B, R-422A, R-422C, R-422D, R-428A, R-434A, and R-507A as of July 20, 2016
- **New supermarket systems:** HFC-227ea, R-404A, R-407B, R-421B, R-422A, R-422C, R-422D, R-428A, R-434A, and R-507A as of January 1, 2017
- **Retrofitted remote condensing units:** R-404A, R-407B, R-421B, R-422A, R-422C, R-422D, R-428A, R-434A, and R-507A as of July 20, 2016
- **New remote condensing units:** HFC-227ea, R-404A, R-407B, R-421B, R-422A, R-422C, R-422D, R-428A, R-434A, and R-507A as of January 1, 2018
- **Retrofitted stand-alone retail food refrigeration equipment:** R-404A and R-507A as of July 20, 2016
- **New stand-alone medium-temperature units with a compressor capacity below 2,200 Btu/hr and not containing a flooded evaporator:** FOR12A, FOR12B, HFC-134a, HFC-227ea, KDD6, R-125/290/134a/600a (55.0/1.0/42.5/1.5), R-404A, R-407A, R-407B, R-407C, R-407F, R-410A, R-410B, R-417A, R-421A, R-421B, R-422A, R-422B, R-422C, R-422D, R-424A, R-426A, R-428A, R-434A, R-437A, R-438A, R-507A, RS-24 (2002 formulation), RS-44 (2003 formulation), SP34E, and THR-03 as of January 1, 2019
- **New stand-alone medium-temperature units with a compressor capacity equal to or greater than 2,200 Btu/hr and stand-alone medium-temperature units containing a flooded evaporator:** FOR12A, FOR12B, HFC-134a, HFC-227ea, KDD6, R-125/290/134a/600a (55.0/1.0/42.5/1.5), R-404A, R-407A, R-407B, R-407C, R-407F, R-410A, R-410B, R-417A, R-421A, R-421B, R-422A, R-422B, R-422C, R-422D, R-424A, R-426A, R-428A, R-434A, R-437A, R-438A, R-507A, RS-24 (2002 formulation), RS-44 (2003 formulation), SP34E, and THR-03 as of January 1, 2020
- **New stand-alone low-temperature units:** HFC-227ea, KDD6, R-125/290/134a/600a (55.0/1.0/42.5/1.5), R-404A, R-407A, R-407B, R-407C, R-407F, R-410A, R-410B, R-417A, R-421A, R-421B, R-422A, R-422B, R-422C, R-422D, R-424A, R-428A, R-434A, R-437A, R-438A, R-507A, and RS-44 (2003 formulation) as of January 1, 2020

How will this proposed change impact the foodservice equipment industry as a whole?

All companies using the above refrigerants and blowing agents will be required to transition to the approved alternatives between July 2016 and January 2020. Since some of the approved alternatives include ethane, isobutene and propane, they must be carefully studied to ensure their safety in foodservice equipment.

What is NAFEM doing to address this issue?

Given that some of the approved alternatives have not been used before in foodservice equipment, NAFEM continues to communicate with EPA to encourage them to consider alternatives to the Final Rule. The NAFEM

Government Relations team is also closely watching similar, pending regulations in California and Canada and will continue to regularly update members.

What should my company be doing to address this issue?

Members should plan to meet the Final Rule in their respective businesses. In doing so, please share information on the quantifiable impact of this rule on your business with NAFEM to inform our ongoing discussions with EPA. To do so in confidence, please contact Frank Moore, Government Relations Senior Director, at 202.367.1254 or fmoore@smithbucklin.com; or Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, Director, NAFEM Member Services at 312.821.0212 or csouhrada@nafem.org.

Where can I get more information on the Final Rule?

The Final Rule is posted at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/20/2015-17066/protection-of-stratospheric-ozone-change-of-listing-status-for-certain-substitutes-under-the>.

A Fact Sheet on the Final Rule is also available at

http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/download/SNAP_Regulatory_Factsheet_July20_2015_revised_508.pdf.

For additional questions on this topic, please contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, Director, NAFEM Member Services at 312.821.0212 or csouhrada@nafem.org.