



## 2018 SNAP RULE 20 REGULATORY UPDATE- Retail Food Refrigeration

In 2015 EPA issued regulations that prohibited the use of certain HFC refrigerants used in Retail Food Refrigeration. EPA was sued over their authority to prohibit the use of HFCs in these applications and, in 2017, a US Circuit Court ruled that EPA did not have the authority to require the replacement of HFCs or restrict their use.

As a result, the restrictions in the 2015 SNAP rule (Rule 20) will not be enforced by EPA unless and until EPA can determine how to implement the Court’s ruling within the overall SNAP regulations. Therefore, technicians and equipment owners are allowed to use R-404A and R-507 and R-134A in retail food refrigeration applications. Specific end uses in Retail Food Refrigeration affected by this are: Supermarket systems, Remote condensing units and Stand-alone equipment.

(Note: The legal status of SNAP Rule 21 affecting Comfort Cooling Chillers and Cold Storage Warehouses has not been finalized by the Court yet.)

Below is a chart of refrigerants used in **RETAIL FOOD REFRIGERATION** that have been affected by this:

	SUPERMARKET		REMOTE COND. UNIT		STAND -ALONE			
	NEW	RETROFIT	NEW	RETROFIT	MT <2,200 BTU/hr & no flooded evap NEW	MT ≥2,200 BTU/hr; with or without flooded evap NEW	LT NEW	LT & MT RETROFIT
R-404A & R-507	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use
R-407A/C/F	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use
R-134A	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use	Okay to use

### Supermarket Systems

- Multiplex or centralized, direct or indirect systems
- Distributed refrigeration system (direct), secondary loop & cascade (indirect)
- Generally more than 2 compressors per rack system and parallel piped
- Ice makers connected to a supermarket system included

### Remote condensing unit

- Typically 0.3 - 5.7 refrigeration tons
- Have one or two compressors, one condenser, one receiver assembled in a single unit
- Normally located outside sales area

### Stand-alone

- Refrigerators, freezers & reach-in coolers, open or with door(s)
- Fully charged with refrigerant at the factory & typically only needs an electric supply

Applications that have not had SNAP rule changes restricting or prohibiting the use of refrigerants include:

- Residential and Light Commercial A/C, Heat Pumps
- Industrial Chillers
- Commercial Ice Machines
- Ice Skating Rinks
- Industrial Process A/C
- Residential Dehumidifiers
- Refrigerated Transport
- Water Coolers
- Very Low Temperature Refrigeration

**Therefore, refrigerants such as R-134A, R-404A, R-407A, R-407C, R-507, R-422B, and R-410A can continue to be used in these applications.**

It is important to understand that there are no regulations restricting or prohibiting the manufacture of HFC refrigerants, so equipment owners can be confident in their ability to obtain and use these refrigerants for service for the life of their installed equipment.