

conditioners), packaged terminal heat pumps, dehumidifiers, under-the-counter ice makers, vending machines, and drinking water coolers.

Suitable replacement refrigerant means, for the purposes of § 82.156(i)(7)(i), a refrigerant that is acceptable under section 612(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and all regulations promulgated under that section, compatible with other materials with which it may come into contact, and able to achieve the temperatures required for the affected industrial process in a technically feasible manner.

System-dependent recovery equipment means refrigerant recovery equipment that requires the assistance of components contained in an appliance to remove the refrigerant from the appliance.

System mothballing means the intentional shutting down of a refrigeration appliance undertaken for an extended period of time by the owners or operators of that facility, where the refrigerant has been evacuated from the appliance or the affected isolated section of the appliance, at least to atmospheric pressure.

Technician means any person who performs maintenance, service, or repair that could be reasonably expected to release class I or class II refrigerants from appliances, except for MVACs, into the atmosphere. Technician also means any person who performs disposal of appliances, except for small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances, that could be reasonably expected to release class I or class II refrigerants from the appliances into the atmosphere. Performing maintenance, service, repair, or disposal could be reasonably expected to release refrigerants only if the activity is reasonably expected to violate the integrity of the refrigerant circuit. Activities reasonably expected to violate the integrity of the refrigerant circuit include activities such as attaching and detaching hoses and gauges to and from the appliance to add or remove refrigerant or to measure pressure and adding refrigerant to and removing refrigerant from the appliance. Activities such as painting the appliance, re-wiring an external electrical circuit, replacing insulation on a length of pipe,

or tightening nuts and bolts on the appliance are not reasonably expected to violate the integrity of the refrigerant circuit. Performing maintenance, service, repair, or disposal of appliances that have been evacuated pursuant to § 82.156 could not be reasonably expected to release refrigerants from the appliance unless the maintenance, service, or repair consists of adding refrigerant to the appliance. Technician includes but is not limited to installers, contractor employees, in-house service personnel, and in some cases, owners.

Very high-pressure appliance means an appliance that uses a refrigerant with a boiling point below -50 degrees Centigrade at atmospheric pressure (29.9 inches of mercury). This definition includes but is not limited to equipment utilizing refrigerants -13 and -503.

Voluntary certification program means a technician testing program operated by a person before that person obtained approval of a technician certification program pursuant to § 82.161(c).

[58 FR 28712, May 14, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 42956, Aug. 19, 1994; 59 FR 55925, Nov. 9, 1994; 60 FR 40439, Aug. 8, 1995]

§ 82.154 Prohibitions.

(a) Effective June 14, 1993, no person maintaining, servicing, repairing, or disposing of appliances may knowingly vent or otherwise release into the environment any class I or class II substance used as refrigerant in such equipment. De minimis releases associated with good faith attempts to recycle or recover refrigerants are not subject to this prohibition. Releases shall be considered de minimis if they occur when:

(1) The required practices set forth in § 82.156 are observed and recovery or recycling machines that meet the requirements set forth in § 82.158 are used; or

(2) The requirements set forth in 40 CFR part 82, subpart B are observed.

The knowing release of refrigerant subsequent to its recovery from an appliance shall be considered a violation of this prohibition.

(b) Effective July 13, 1993, no person may open appliances except MVACs for maintenance, service, or repair, and no

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person may dispose of appliances except for small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances:

(1) Without observing the required practices set forth in §82.156; and

(2) Without using equipment that is certified for that type of appliance pursuant to §82.158.

(c) Effective November 15, 1993, no person may manufacture or import recycling or recovery equipment for use during the maintenance, service, or repair of appliances except MVACs, and no person may manufacture or import recycling or recovery equipment for use during the disposal of appliances except small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances, unless the equipment is certified pursuant to §82.158 (b), (d), or (f), as applicable.

(d) Effective June 14, 1993, no person shall alter the design of certified refrigerant recycling or recovery equipment in a way that would affect the equipment's ability to meet the certification standards set forth in §82.158 without resubmitting the altered design for certification testing. Until it is tested and shown to meet the certification standards set forth in §82.158, equipment so altered will be considered uncertified for the purposes of §82.158.

(e) Effective August 12, 1993, no person may open appliances except MVACs for maintenance, service, or repair, and no person may dispose of appliances except for small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances, unless such person has certified to the Administrator pursuant to §82.162 that such person has acquired certified recovery or recycling equipment and is complying with the applicable requirements of this subpart.

(f) Effective August 12, 1993, no person may recover refrigerant from small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances for purposes of disposal of these appliances unless such person has certified to the Administrator pursuant to §82.162 that such person has acquired recovery equipment that meets the standards set forth in §82.158 (l) and/or (m), as applicable, and that such person is complying with the applicable requirements of this subpart.

(g) No person may sell or offer for sale for use as a refrigerant any class I

or class II substance consisting wholly or in part of used refrigerant unless:

(1) The class I or class II substance has been reclaimed as defined at §82.152;

(2) The class I or class II substance was used only in an MVAC or MVAC-like appliance and is to be used only in an MVAC or MVAC-like appliance; or

(3) The class I or class II substance is contained in an appliance that is sold or offered for sale together with the class I or class II substance.

(h) No person may sell or offer for sale for use as a refrigerant any class I or class II substance consisting wholly or in part of used refrigerant unless:

(1) The class I or class II substance has been reclaimed by a person who has been certified as a reclaimer pursuant to §82.164;

(2) The class I or class II substance was used only in an MVAC or MVAC-like appliance and is to be used only in an MVAC or MVAC-like appliance; or

(3) The class I or class II substance is contained in an appliance that is sold or offered for sale together with the class I or class II substance.

(i) Effective August 12, 1993, no person reclaiming refrigerant may release more than 1.5% of the refrigerant received by them.

(j) Effective November 15, 1993, no person may sell or distribute, or offer for sale or distribution, any appliances, except small appliances, unless such equipment is equipped with a servicing aperture to facilitate the removal of refrigerant at servicing and disposal.

(k) Effective November 15, 1993, no person may sell or distribute, or offer for sale or distribution any small appliance unless such equipment is equipped with a process stub to facilitate the removal of refrigerant at servicing and disposal.

(l) No technician training or testing program may issue certificates pursuant to §82.161 unless the program complies with all of the standards of §82.161 and appendix D, and has been granted approval.

(m) Effective November 14, 1994, no person may sell or distribute, or offer for sale or distribution, any class I or class II substance for use as a refrigerant to any person unless:

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(1) The buyer has been certified as a Type I, Type II, Type III, or Universal technician pursuant to § 82.161;

(2) The buyer has successfully completed a voluntary certification program requesting approval under § 82.161(g) by December 9, 1994. This paragraph (m)(2) expires on May 15, 1995.

(3) The buyer has been certified pursuant to 40 CFR part 82, subpart B;

(4) The refrigerant is sold only for eventual resale to certified technicians or to appliance manufacturers (e.g., sold by a manufacturer to a wholesaler, sold by a technician to a reclaimer);

(5) The refrigerant is sold to an appliance manufacturer;

(6) The refrigerant is contained in an appliance, and after January 9, 1995, the refrigerant is contained in an appliance with a fully assembled refrigerant circuit;

(7) The refrigerant is charged into an appliance by a certified technician or an apprentice during maintenance, service, or repair; or

(8) The refrigerant is charged into an appliance by a technician who successfully completed a voluntary certification program requesting approval under § 82.161(g) by December 9, 1994. This paragraph (m)(8) expires on May 15, 1995.

(9) Rules stayed for reconsideration. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart, the effectiveness of 40 CFR 82.154(m), only as it applies to refrigerant contained in appliances without fully assembled refrigerant circuits, is stayed from April 27, 1995, until EPA takes final action on its reconsideration of these provisions. EPA will publish any such final action in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(n) It is a violation of this subpart to accept a signed statement pursuant to § 82.156(f)(2) if the person knew or had reason to know that such a signed statement is false.

[58 FR 28712, May 14, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 42956, Aug. 19, 1994; 59 FR 55926, Nov. 9, 1994; 60 FR 14610, Mar. 17, 1995; 60 FR 24680, May 9, 1995; 61 FR 7726, Feb. 29, 1996; 61 FR 68508, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 82.156 Required practices.

(a) Effective July 13, 1993, all persons disposing of appliances, except for

small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances must evacuate the refrigerant in the entire unit to a recovery or recycling machine certified pursuant to § 82.158. All persons opening appliances except for MVACs for maintenance, service, or repair must evacuate the refrigerant in either the entire unit or the part to be serviced (if the latter can be isolated) to a system receiver or a recovery or recycling machine certified pursuant to § 82.158. Effective January 9, 1995, certified technicians must verify that the applicable level of evacuation has been reached in the appliance or the part before it is opened.

(1) Persons opening appliances except for small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like appliances for maintenance, service, or repair must evacuate to the levels in table 1 before opening the appliance, unless

(i) Evacuation of the appliance to the atmosphere is not to be performed after completion of the maintenance, service, or repair, and the maintenance, service, or repair is not major as defined at § 82.152(k); or

(ii) Due to leaks in the appliance, evacuation to the levels in table 1 is not attainable, or would substantially contaminate the refrigerant being recovered; or

(iii) The recycling or recovery equipment was certified pursuant to § 82.158(b)(2). In any of these cases, the requirements of § 82.156(a)(2) must be followed.

(2)(i) If evacuation of the appliance to the atmosphere is not to be performed after completion of the maintenance, service, or repair, and if the maintenance, service, or repair is not major as defined at § 82.152(k), the appliance must:

(A) Be evacuated to a pressure no higher than 0 psig before it is opened if it is a high- or very high-pressure appliance;

(B) Be pressurized to 0 psig before it is opened if it is a low-pressure appliance. Persons pressurizing low-pressure appliances that use refrigerants with boiling points at or below 85 degrees Fahrenheit at 29.9 inches of mercury (standard atmospheric pressure), (e.g., CFC-11 and HCFC-123), must not use methods such as nitrogen, that require