



# Expiring Refrigerant Trading Authorisation (RTA)? Get in quick to reduce your stress

Pre-Christmas and New Year is a busy time for everyone—the ARC included!

To ensure the continuity of your business activities during these busy times, plan ahead and renew your RTA as early as possible to maintain your ability to purchase and handle refrigerant.

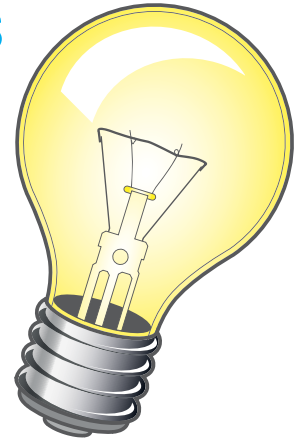
Help us help you – don't risk letting your RTA expire!

- Lodge your renewal early – at the time of the first reminder letter – fill out the enclosed application form or;
- Use the online facility on the ARC website

- Complete/update all sections of the application

To acquire your username and password in order to complete an online application or for further details go to [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org) or contact ARC Customer Service on 1300 88 44 83.

Remember, a business can only legally acquire, possess or dispose of fluorocarbon refrigerant if they hold a current RTA. To do otherwise is an offence which carries the maximum penalty of \$1100 for an individual and \$5500 for a corporation.



## Decanting and decommissioning. online training and assessment programs available



Decanting and decommissioning training and assessment programs are available online from the ARC website [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org) for individuals who either undertake decanting operations at wholesalers or perform only refrigerant recovery operations. These online training programs have been developed in response to industry requests. They will also ensure that those who are contributing positively to restoring of ozone layer and reducing greenhouse gas emissions are appropriately recognised and supported. The new licences will replace the Refrigerant Handler Transitional Licence and Refrigerant Recoverer Transitional Licence.

Businesses must have at least one licensed person in order to handle refrigerant during decommissioning or decanting; this person supervises other employees who also undertake decommissioning or decanting work. This will ensure that persons have the necessary skills to safely reclaim

refrigerant from end of life refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and to decant refrigerant from one cylinder to another.

Persons can obtain these licences by completing a simple and free online workplace training and assessment package, which is available through the ARC website. In order to access the training program an ARC username and password is required. Call the ARC on 1300 88 44 83.

Successful completion of either program will provide applicants with documented evidence to forward to the ARC to have their Transitional handling licence converted to either a Restricted Refrigerant Handlers licence and/or a Restricted Refrigerant Recoverer's licence. Both Transitional licences (Refrigerant Handler Transitional and Refrigerant Recoverer Transitional) will be phased out by the ARC. This means that no applications for Transitional licences will be accepted after 30 November 2010.

### In this issue

- ✓ Expiring RTA? Get in quick to reduce your stress
- ✓ Decanting and decommissioning. online training and assessment programs available
- ✓ A national licensing system for specified occupations
- ✓ Codes of Practice available online
- ✓ Empty cylinders – or are they?
- ✓ The ARC RHL – a national licence
- ✓ Agents supplying refrigerant – need an ARC licence?
- ✓ Auto under bonnet service stickers still available
- ✓ Additional Trainee Licence – for classroom settings only
- ✓ Managing your licences with the ARC just gets easier
- ✓ Australia bans the import of air conditioning equipment pre-charged with HCFC refrigerants
- ✓ Split-system Survey
- ✓ Have a Merry Christmas and New Year

# A national licensing system for specified occupations

On 30 April 2009 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and released a Decision Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for a National Licensing System (NLS) for the following initial occupational areas;

- air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics
- building and building related occupations
- electrical
- land transport (passenger vehicle drivers and dangerous goods only)
- maritime
- plumbing and gasfitting, and
- property agents

Through the signing of the IGA, states and territories have agreed to begin the implementation process for the NLS which is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2012.

For more information about the development and implementation of the NLS, go to the National Licensing website at: <https://www.govdex.gov.au/confluence/display/COAGNL/Home>.

The website provides links to the IGA and RIS, fact sheets and a list of frequently asked questions. The website also contains information on the next steps, including the development of draft legislation for the NLS and the establishment of the Interim Advisory Committees which will provide transitional advice on licence policy.

## Codes of Practice available online

Both the Refrigerant Handling Code of Practice 2007 and Automotive Code of Practice are available for download at [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org)

Refrigerant Handling Codes of Practice are a mandatory item for all technicians and trainees while a copy of the Automotive Code of Practice must be held on-site for all businesses working within the automotive sector.



## Empty cylinders – or are they?

Cylinders (and any other container used for the transport of Dangerous Goods) are not classified as empty until they have been deemed empty by an ARC licensed person. For a cylinder to be deemed empty, 100 per cent of the contents must be flushed from the cylinder. Simply emptying the contents through the

decanting process does not completely empty the cylinder – as there is always a small residual material that remains.

*Under the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) code, "cylinders, pressure drums, multiple-element gas containers (MEGCs), portable tanks and other pressure vessels (other than aerosols) that have contained dangerous goods of Class 2 and are not free from dangerous goods must comply with all relevant provisions of this Code as though filled with dangerous goods."*

Therefore, trucks transporting cylinders between customers and depots should treat ALL cylinders as though they were full. Exemption exists for NEW cylinders or internally reconditioned cylinders that have not been filled with product.

**For further information, a copy of the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) code can be accessed at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au)**

# The ARC RHL – a national licence

The ARC Refrigerant Handling Licence (RHL) is a national licence that is environmentally-based and is required by law to undertake work handling fluorocarbon refrigerants in the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) industry. There are various state-based occupational licences that may be required in addition to your ARC licence to undertake work in the RAC industry. These state-based licences are for consumer protection and for OH&S and are subject to potential reforms by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) (Refer to the article in this issue; *National licensing schemes for specified occupations*).



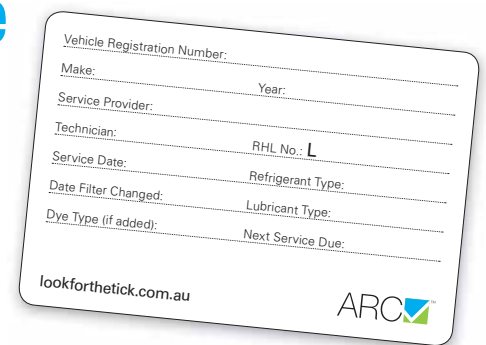
# Agents supplying refrigerant – do you need an ARC licence?

Anyone acquiring, storing or disposing of refrigerant must hold an ARC Refrigerant Trading Authorisation (RTA).

Agents or businesses selling and/or storing refrigerant for or on behalf of another organisation are no different. As holders of their own ABN they are legally, a separate entity and therefore must have their own RTA.

# Auto under bonnet service stickers still available

Summer is almost here which prompts an increasing number of air-conditioning maintenance and servicing jobs. Auto under bonnet service stickers are still available for purchase from the ARC. This durable sticker is perfect for recording all the details of work required to comply with the Australian Automotive Code of Practice 2008 and assists as a work log, easily locating previous service information.



**Call the ARC on 1300 88 44 83 to place an order.**

# Additional Trainee Licence – for classroom settings only

A licence granted under the Additional Trainee Licence is subject to the condition that the licensee only carries out refrigerant handling work while undertaking training and assessment, a course offered by a Registered Training Provider (RTP). This trainee licence is valid for the duration of the course only, at a fee of \$20.

# Managing your licences with the ARC just gets easier

The introduction of the online application facility has made managing your business with the ARC even easier. Once you have your username and password, you can log in to access your application at any time and update changes through the 'My details' section of the facility. Keeping the details of your RTA current saves you the hassle from having to update them all at once when the time comes to re-apply.

Reviewing the expiry status of your RHL can also be accessed through the online facility. This feature is useful in monitoring your technicians' RHLs to ensure their licences do not expire – a frequent reason why RTA re-applications are delayed until the RHL is made current.

Updates of company details, licensed technicians, trainees, branches and equipment listings can all be carried out using the 'My Details' section of the online application facility.

To access 'My Details' go to [www.arctick.org](http://www.arctick.org), and select 'Change of details advice' under the RTA menu tab. This will direct you to the membership login where you will need to enter your username and password. If you do not have a username and password, contact the ARC on **1300 88 44 83**.



## Have you changed address?

To keep you informed of issues relevant to your profession, we need your correct mailing address. We respectfully request that you advise us of any changes to your contact details via email to [enquire@arctick.org](mailto:enquire@arctick.org)



## Prefer email?

If you would prefer to receive CoolChange via email, please email your details to [coolchange@arctick.org](mailto:coolchange@arctick.org)

## Have a Merry Christmas and New Year

The team at the ARC wishes you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. For your convenience, the ARC head office will remain open over the Christmas/New Year period, except public holidays.

# Australia bans the import of air conditioning equipment pre-charged with HCFC refrigerants

In accordance with Australia's international obligations, the amount of HCFC which can be imported in to Australia each year is gradually decreasing. Virtually all HCFC imports will cease by the end of 2015. However a significant number of HCFC air conditioning units continue to be imported into Australia. Without action to halt the growth in the number of HCFC units, shortages of HCFC to service the existing stock of air conditioning equipment may occur.

In order to meet Australia's objectives to phase out the use of HCFCs and to ensure HCFC servicing stocks are not further eroded, the Australian Government has decided to ban the import of air conditioning equipment charged with HCFC from 1 July 2010. This ban will be achieved through a condition which will be imposed on all pre-charged equipment licences issued for licensing periods from 1 January 2010. The condition will provide for limited exemptions; specifically it will not apply where the equipment to be imported comprises a chiller charged with HCFC123 or high static ducted system components, or where it is a replacement part for existing HCFC equipment. For clarity, a replacement

part does not include a complete, or substantially complete, indoor or outdoor unit of a split-system air conditioner.

This ban is commensurate with bans adopted by other governments as part of the worldwide phase out of HCFC. Public consultation in September 2009 indicated that industry was generally in support of such a ban.

Persons wishing to obtain a Pre-Charged Equipment (PCE) licence will be required to agree to abide by this condition. The ban does not remove the requirement to obtain a PCE licence for persons wishing to import air conditioning equipment pre-charged with HCFC between 1 January and 30 June 2010. The application for the PCE licence must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of \$3000.

Persons attempting to import air conditioning equipment pre-charged with HCFC after 1 July 2010 may have their consignment seized.

Any questions about how this ban will affect you should be directed to the Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team at the Department for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on 02 6274 2695.

## Split-system Survey

The department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) is conducting a survey into methods and amounts of refrigerant reclaimed from split-system air conditioners.

The department is asking all companies and tradespeople who are licensed by the ARC and work with split-system air conditioners to fill out the survey between 2 November 2009 and 21 December 2009.

The data collected will be anonymous and will be used to determine how split-systems are being decommissioned, how much refrigerant is being recovered from split-system air conditioners and if there are ways refrigerant could be better reclaimed from split-system air conditioners; benefiting the environment through less venting of refrigerant.

The survey is accessible from Monday 2 November until Monday 21 December 2009 and can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/rac/>

