



AHRI Policy Position “Right to Repair” Legislation

The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, refrigeration (HVACR) and water heating equipment within the global industry. AHRI’s more than 320 member companies account for over 90 percent of HVACR and water heating residential and commercial equipment manufactured and sold in North America.

Background

If not properly installed or repaired, HVACR and water heating equipment will not provide important energy saving benefits and will undermine energy efficiency initiatives, negatively impacting the environment and climate change initiatives. Certified technicians are taught about ozone depletion, recovery of dangerous materials, leak repair requirements, and other compliance requirements to protect the environment. Individuals working on HVACR equipment without proper training could lead to adverse environmental impacts and negatively affect the overall function of the equipment.

Many governments now require the use of low-global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants that may require safety standard and building code changes, permitting widespread, uncertified installation and maintenance of the new equipment which could significantly impact the emissions reduction achieved by the new refrigerants being used.

In addition to equipment performance and climate impacts, equipment warranties could potentially be nullified if service is conducted by an unqualified contractor. A manufacturer’s warranty is critical for consumer protection and confidence in the equipment they are purchasing. Should a homeowner’s equipment malfunction, a warranty can be crucial for saving costs and having the equipment properly serviced. Manufacturers rely on qualified contractors to perform this maintenance and ensure that any future warranty issues or product recalls can be honored.

Industry Position and Policy Considerations

AHRI opposes right to repair legislation that does not exempt HVACR equipment; this can impact safety, environmental protection, consumer warranties, and more. AHRI encourages policymakers to limit the scope of right to repair legislation to ensure it does not include HVACR and/or water heating products in the definition of eligible equipment.

Our industry places a high value on the use of skilled, trained, and certified contractors to handle the sophisticated equipment our manufacturers produce. HVACR contractors meet extensive training and certification requirements to be able to perform maintenance and repairs on our manufacturers’ equipment. By utilizing trained contractors, as an industry, we can better ensure equipment is running safely and efficiently.

Contact Information

Allison Maginot

Senior Director, Government Affairs

Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute

P: (703) 293-4881

amaginot@ahrinet.org