

# Retrofit Do's and Don'ts of Class A Refrigerants in Stationary Equipment

## DO:

- Select a refrigerant with the appropriate safety class and design compatibility for the equipment, ensuring flammable refrigerants are not used to replace nonflammable refrigerants in a retrofit.
- Read all safety information, including the refrigerant SDS and equipment instructions.
- Apply proper PPE.
- Verify the recovery tank is pressure-rated for the refrigerant being recovered.
- Properly label the recovery tank with the refrigerant recovered.
- Verify that the replacement refrigerant meets AHRI 700 Specifications.
- Establish a performance baseline of the existing system
- Follow compressor manufacturer guidelines: POE or PVE lubricants are recommended for use in most HFO and HFC systems.
- Change the lubricant if there are questions about the existing POE lubricant (i.e: tests indicate that it is contaminated or has a high acid number)
- Change elastomeric seals and gaskets, particularly any system-critical seals, when converting from an CFC or HCFC to an HFC or HFO refrigerant.
- Flush line sets when utilizing exiting sets as part of a new installation or compressor burnout
- Change the filter drier.
- Verify system is 'leak-free' and pull a minimum of 500-micron vacuum.
- Use an electronic leak detector specifically designed for the refrigerant you are using.
- Charge 400-series refrigerants in liquid form.
- Label components and system for type of refrigerant and lubricant upon retrofit completion.

## DON'T:

- Do not mix refrigerants. Every refrigerant has a specific composition; any mixing of different refrigerants changes the composition, and as a result will impact the system operation and safety.
- Do not retrofit from one flammability class to another. HVACR equipment is designed specifically for each class.
- Do not use handheld leak detectors to check for breathable air in enclosed working spaces. These detectors are not designed to determine if the air is safe to breathe. Use oxygen monitors to ensure adequate oxygen is available to sustain life.
- Do not overcharge a system.
- Do not expose refrigerants to flames, sparks or hot surfaces.
- Do not use flames or halide torches to search for leaks. Open flames in the presence of any fluorocarbon refrigerant can decompose the refrigerant, forming hazardous acidic compounds.
- Do not mix refrigerants with air to check for system leaks.
- Avoid overexposure to high concentrations of refrigerant vapor, which can cause asphyxiation or cardiac arrest.
- Do not overfill a recovery tank.
- Do not store refrigerants in direct sunlight or areas greater than 125-degrees F.



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