



QUICK FACTS

R22 gas and R22 equipment

R22, or HCFC-22, is an ozone depleting substance. Production and import of most bulk ozone depleting substances in Australia have been banned from the early 1990s. Bans on production and import of equipment containing ozone depleting substances have also been introduced over time.

What's happening with R22 bulk gas?

From 2016 to 2029 Australia may only import 2.5 ozone depleting tonnes of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) annually, equivalent to about 45 tonnes of R22.

- From 1 January 2030, R22 imports will be banned entirely. From then, the servicing of remaining R22-based systems will rely solely on reclaimed refrigerant.
- From 1 January 2020, R22 or other HCFC imported into Australia can only be used for servicing existing refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, or used for servicing existing fire protection equipment. Existing equipment means equipment imported or manufactured before 1 January 2020.
- Some used R22 is already being reclaimed for re-use. Reclaimed R22 must be tested to confirm it meets manufacturer's specifications to ensure its quality. Contact your refrigerant supplier for further information.
- The price of R22 may rise depending on demand and availability.

What's happening with R22 equipment?

New R22 refrigeration and air conditioning equipment can no longer be manufactured or imported into Australia, apart from some spare parts and in some special circumstances.

- Existing R22 equipment already in Australia will not be banned and does not need to be decommissioned or retrofitted.
- Existing units using R22 can continue to be serviced with R22. Regular servicing can benefit owners through reduced electricity costs and reduced replacement costs for leaked refrigerant.
- There is no need to transition to an alternative refrigerant or system if your R22 system is in good working order. However, new equipment is generally more energy efficient and may have a smaller refrigerant charge and lower leakage rate, and therefore can be cheaper to run.
- Spare parts might become harder to source as R22 equipment gets more out of date.