

Pre-Announcement of Revision for Strengthening of Refrigerant Management

• CONTENTS •

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Overview | 1 |
| 2. Background | 2 |
| 3. Major Aspects | 2 |
| 4. Source | 4 |

1. Overview

- The Ministry of Environment made a prior announcement of a revision to subordinate statutes to the Clean Air Conservation Act with focus on the strengthening of management of refrigerants for 40 days from May.
 - The range of refrigerant-based appliances that will be added to the list of products subject to control is stipulated in detail.
 - Criteria and a procedure for the registration of products will be provided for enforcement of a Refrigerant Takeback Business Registration System.

2. Background

- This prior announcement of the revision to subordinate statutes to the Clean Air Conservation Act was made with the view of providing matters delegated in the Act revised in November 2017 and provisions that are necessary for its implementation

3. Major Aspects

- Establishment of a scope of management of appliances for food refrigeration and freezing and other industrial equipment
 - More than 20 tons of daily refrigeration capacity
 - Equipment for the refrigeration, freezing, and storage of foodstuffs
 - Equipment used to control temperature at production processes
 - Equipment used for refrigeration, freezing, and storage of medicines and medical supplies
 - Equipment used for ice-making at ice rinks
 - Business entities that own refrigerant-based equipment subject to control under the new revision
 - Managing refrigerant appropriately according to the refrigerant management guidelines.
 - Preparing a refrigerant management register, detailing refrigerant management status, etc., and submitting a copy of it and supporting documents to Korea Environment Corporation every year.
 - Regarding what is provided via the Refrigerant Information Management Network (www.rims.or.kr) as the information having submitted.
- Establishment of criteria and a procedure for the registration of refrigerant takeback businesses
 - Required to equip the facility, equipment, and technical personnel as are stipulated by the registration guidelines.
 - Required to submit an application to Korea Environment Corporation together with documents evidencing the sufficiency of the registration guidelines.

- The registration certificated will be issued within 30 days of the date of receipt of the application.
- Companies are able to operate their refrigerant takeback business without the registration until May 2019.
- Description of detailed obligations of refrigerant takeback service providers
 - Required to prepare a refrigerant takeback sheet and submit it to the company that entrusted it to do so when said refrigerant is recovered.
 - Required to make sure that only a registered technician prepares the refrigerant takeback sheet.
 - Required to submit the refrigerant takeback sheets to Korea Environment Corporation within 15 days from the end of every half year or enter the data at the Refrigerant Information Management Network.
 - Required to have its refrigerant takeback personnel receive initial and continuing education regularly.
 - The result of the education must be reported within 14 days of the date of completion of the education or entered via the Refrigerant Information Management Network.
- Strict application of the criteria for the recovery of refrigerant
 - Criteria for safety maintenance and storage are added.
- Criteria for the management of refrigerant
 - Prohibition of emission into the air of the refrigerant filled in equipment
 - Prevention of leakage in the course of recovery, re-use, storage, transportation, and delivery of refrigerant
 - Checking of the refrigerant-based equipment in operation for their condition and for leakage of refrigerant
 - Immediate repair in case a refrigerant-based appliance develops any abnormality during operation
 - Preparation and submission of refrigerant management sheets

- How to recover refrigerant
 - Furnishing itself with facilities and equipment necessary for proper recovery of refrigerant pursuant to the Refrigerant Takeback Guidelines.
 - Engaging those who register refrigerant takeback business to take any refrigerant back.
- Submission of refrigerant management register
 - A refrigerant service provider subject to immediate control under this system must submit its previous year's refrigerant management records or enter the data via Refrigerant Information Management Network by the end of February of the following year
 - A refrigerant service provider subject to immediate control under this system: is a company that installs or operates an air conditioning unit that uses more than 50kg of refrigerant.
 - A refrigerant service provider subject to expanded control under this system will be given a grace period until January 2019.
 - A refrigerant service provider subject to expanded control under this system: is a company that installs and operates refrigerant-based appliances for food refrigeration and freezing purpose and other industrial purpose.
 - It must draw up refrigerant management records from 2019 and submit them by the end of February 2020.

4. Source

- Ministry of Environment