

US EPA's Final Regulations: Emissions Reduction and Reclamation Rule (ERR) 1/20/2025 Fact Sheet for Supermarket End-Users (Commercial HVACR)

Leak Repair Provisions

Beginning 01/01/26, the below leak repair, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements apply to commercial HVACR appliances¹ with a full charge of 15+ lbs. of an HFC refrigerant or a substitute with a GWP > 53.

Leak Repair

- Leak rate thresholds: 20% commercial refrigeration, 10% comfort cooling.
- Leak rate calculation methods: Annualizing Method or Rolling Average Method.
- Leaks must be repaired within 30 days of when refrigerant is added to an appliance exceeding the applicable leak rate, including all verification tests. If leak still can't be repaired, or appliance continues to leak above the applicable leak rate, appliance must be retrofitted or retired. Retrofit or retirement plan must be completed within 12 months.
- Leak inspections required on appliances that have exceeded the applicable leak rate. Commercial refrigeration with a full charge \geq 500 lbs. required once every 3 months; all other appliances required yearly.

Recordkeeping

- Required recordkeeping for facilities with at least 1 regulated appliance. Must keep records for 3 years.

Reporting

- Chronically Leaking Appliances – appliances that leak 125% or more of their full charge in a calendar year must be reported to the EPA by March 1st of the subsequent year. Reporting requirements include basic identification information, appliance type, refrigerant type, full charge size, annual percent refrigerant loss, dates of refrigerant additions, amounts of refrigerant added, date of last successful follow-up verification test, explanation of cause of refrigerant losses, description of repair actions taken, and whether a retrofit or retirement plan has been developed and anticipated date of retrofit or retirement.
- Must submit documentation to the EPA within required timeframes when seeking an extension of time to complete repairs, relief from obligation to retrofit or retire an appliance, and/or an extension of time to complete the retrofit or retirement plan.

Mandatory Automatic Leak Detection Systems (ALDS)

- ALDS required for new and existing commercial refrigeration systems with a full charge \geq 1500 lbs. of an HFC refrigerant or a substitute with a GWP > 53.
 - Appliances installed on or after 01/01/26 must have ALDS installed w/in 30 days of appliance installation.
 - Appliances installed on or after 01/01/17 and before 01/01/26 must have ALDS installed prior to 01/01/27.
- Must maintain records for 3 years including installation, annual audit/calibration, date of each ALDS alert, and location of leak.

Mandatory Use of Reclaimed Refrigerant for HFC Systems

- Starting 01/01/29, requires use of reclaimed HFCs for service/repair of supermarket systems, refrigerated transport, and automatic commercial ice makers.

Requirements for Disposable Cylinders

- Starting 01/01/28, disposable cylinders must be sent to an EPA certified reclaimer, final processor, or refrigerant supplier for the refrigerant heel to be removed. Alternatively, EPA-certified technicians can evacuate the disposable cylinder to a vacuum level of 15 in-Hg and provide a certification statement to the final processor.

For More Information

- Link to EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/regulatory-actions-managing-hfc-use-and-reuse>

¹ The ERR regulations refer to "light commercial HVAC equipment" being exempt from the ERR, but our understanding of their definition of "light commercial" is commercial AC units used in facilities that are similar to residential facilities. Therefore, we assume that any commercial HVAC appliance used in a supermarket setting does not fall under the EPA's ERR definition of "light commercial."

