

HVAC&R Industry Update

Confirmation of Licensing Regime for Refrigerant Engineers

Today we received advice from MBIE that cabinet have approved a Licensing regime for Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineers and Technicians. We are still digesting the information and will provide more detailed information in coming weeks.

Central to this regime are the following key points:

- All low GWP refrigerants with hazardous properties will be covered by this regime, being natural and flammable refrigerants such as CO₂, HFO's Hydrocarbons and Ammonia.
- The Scheme will apply to every technician or engineer who works with those refrigerants on commercial or industrial plant and equipment.
- It is likely that there will be classes of technician in the scheme, roughly inline with the recommendations we made to government in our Industry submissions in December.
- The training required will be integrated into the NZ Certificate in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (level 4), along with other similar Qualification frameworks in coming years.
- We can confirm, this will take the form of a License and will be administered by Worksafe under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Our industry is of course familiar with this under the Approved Filler Certification Scheme which has been operating since 2011 and will continue for the foreseeable future.
- The proposed regime will not cover HFC's (which you know are being phased out from 1 January 2020). Collectively our industry organisations do not support this decision. We feel it waters down the license and potentially leaves the door open for more risk and shortcuts which could result in damage, injury or even death.
- A further consultation process is planned of July this year covering some potential areas of exclusion, the threshold and definitions for what is meant by light commercial and domestic appliances, licensing fees, offence provisions and penalties etc. you will again have the opportunity to *have your say* on these aspects.

As mentioned above, we are still waiting on clarification on several points and intend to update you on more detail in the coming days and weeks. We will also make contact with you for support in providing a stronger case to Government with a view to include work with HFC's and low charge refrigerants within the scope of the licensing regime.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the proposed Licensing regime – document 5829

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the proposed Licensing regime – document 5830

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the proposed Licensing regime – document 5831

RLNZ to introduce Flammables & Naturals Training for New Zealand

Refrigerant License New Zealand (RLNZ) are pleased to advise they are working with several international training providers to deliver internationally recognised online and practical training in Flammable and Natural Refrigerants here in NZ.

Answering industry's need for Flammables and Naturals training as we head into the impending Licensing regime, RLNZ have contracted with *Real Alternatives* an EU based initiative and are currently in talks with another European provider, in both cases to deliver high quality, relevant and internationally recognised training for the New Zealand market.

RLNZ hold the view that to be successful, training must cover both face to face, practical and online components. As an early, but never the less robust offering, the *Flammable Awareness Online* and *Face to Face* courses currently offered by RNZ are a strong preliminary course to ensure an understanding of the nature and handling of those Flammable Refrigerants. The *Approved Filler* and *Approved Filler Online Renewal* courses continue to remain relevant within NZ's refrigerant training framework while HFC's remain available.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access RLNZ information regarding RLNZ training courses

The advanced online training will be launched progressively in the coming months and a dedicated training facility is being established to enable practical face to face training and will be available by early 2020 to support the impending license regime.

In conclusion

IRHACE, CCCANZ and RLNZ are committed to supporting industry towards achieving best practice for all HVAC&R technicians and engineers. As the HFC Phasedown progresses it will necessitate a more stringent regime which this License and the training listed here will in part address.

Please stay in contact as we progress through the next steps and as at ever stage of the process we would welcome your feedback on this important development for the HVAC&R Industry

Feel free to contact Christine Johnston on 021929729, christine@irhace.org.nz, to discuss.