NAPSO Presents

AIM ACT TRANSITION
Essential Information for Growers and Facilities on Upcoming Refrigerant Changes

The AIM Act (American Innovation and Manufacturing Act) is a federal law that phases down high-GWP (Global Warming Potential) HFC refrigerants and transitions the industry toward lower-GWP refrigerants, such as A2L's, to meet climate goals. ODSHAR is the Canadian equivalent to achieve the same goals

Under the AIM Act, **a transition to A2L systems is expected**, however, A1 refrigeration systems will remain in service for many years, but production of A1 refrigerants will decline a part of the following mandated phasedown schedule:

- 2022: Production reduced to 90% of baseline capacity
- 2024: Production reduced to 60% of baseline capacity
- 2029: Production reduced to 30% of baseline capacity

WHAT SHOULD GROWERS DO?

- Inventory Current Refrigeration Systems
- Evaluate Refrigerant Needs and Future Availability
- Plan for Transition to A2L-Compatible Systems
- Budget for Rising Refrigerant Costs
- Contact HVAC providers for licensing and A2L training.

A2L Pros

Lower Global Warming Potential (GWP); Longer-Term Refrigerant Availability; New Equipment Often Offers Better Control; Potential for Reduced Costs Over System Life

A2L Cons

Mild Flammability; Higher Initial Equipment & Installation Cost; Potential Training Requirements; Cost & Compliance Complexity; Refrigerant Charge Limit Considerations; Limited Field Experience in Certain Agricultural Storage Applications

There are different regulations in certain states, **please contact your state legislators to ensure your voice is heard** before your local legislation goes beyond what is outlined in the federal AIM Act.
Get a copy of our "Call to Action" letter and advocate for consistent federal regulations!

https://napso.info/

AIM ACT – REFRIGERANT TRANSITION GROWER Q&A SHEET

🧊 Which facilities are affected?

Answer:

All cold-storage facilities utilizing current HFC cooling technology, including potato and onion storages, are covered under the AIM Act refrigerant transition.

⚙️ Can I keep using my current refrigeration system?

Answer:

Yes. You can continue using and repairing your existing system throughout its useful life, as long as it remains compliant with EPA regulations.

🔧 What maintenance and replacements are allowed?

Answer:

- Allowed: Replacing parts such as compressors, coils, and valves.
- Not allowed:
  - Replacing all components of the original system: Local contractors can help determine the level of maintenance/replacement allowed for your particular system.

💡 What are A2L refrigerants?

Answer:

A2L refrigerants are low-GWP alternatives that are mildly flammable but safe when handled properly.

Pros: Lower environmental impact, similar handling to A1 refrigerants, and compliance with future standards.

Cons: Require UL-approved equipment, ventilation, leak detection, and may involve higher upfront costs.

💵 How will costs be affected?

Answer:

Expect 20–25% higher equipment costs for new systems and refrigerants.

Larger condensing units may require layout changes and electrical upgrades.

🏛️ What are the reporting requirements?

Answer:

- HVAC contractors must report leak repairs and system status.
- Growers/owners must keep all documentation on file.
- EPA reporting rules are expected to expand by 2029.

⚠️ What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Answer:

Failing to comply with the AIM Act doesn't just mean hefty fines—it can also lead to major operational setbacks and reputational harm. Businesses that neglect refrigerant management could face challenges that extend beyond compliance penalties, affecting their bottom line and long-term viability.

📈 How can growers prepare for the future?

Answer:

- Budget for upcoming system update and rising refrigerant costs
- Track federal and state refrigerant phase-down timelines.
- Build relationships with certified HVAC providers experienced in A2L systems.

https://napso.info/