



Requirements and implications for those maintaining air conditioning systems using refrigerants

AWB 21-004 **Issue** : 1
Date : 30 June 2014

1. Effectivity

Persons responsible for the maintenance of systems using refrigerants in aircraft.

2. Purpose

To provide advice regarding the requirements for refrigerant handling licences as set by:

- [The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989](#) (Ozone Act)– Part VIA, Section 45B – Discharge of scheduled substances; and
- [The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995](#) (Ozone Regulations)– Division 6A

3. Background

Given the ozone depleting properties and/or global warming potential of some refrigerants used in aircraft, persons handling them must hold a current refrigerant handling licence (RHL), as required by the Ozone Regulations. These licences are issued by the [Australian Refrigerants Council](#) (ARC) on behalf of [The Department of the Environment](#) (DoE).

4. Meaning of certain terms within the Ozone Regulations

RAC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
RHL Refrigerants Handling Licence

The term '*carries out work*' in relation to refrigerant and air-conditioning (RAC) equipment means doing anything with a refrigerant, or a component of RAC equipment, that involves a risk of refrigerant being emitted, including:

- decanting the refrigerant
- manufacturing, installing, commissioning, servicing and maintaining RAC equipment, whether or not refrigerant is present
- decommissioning RAC equipment in which refrigerant is present.

The term '*handling a refrigerant*' means doing anything with the refrigerant or RAC equipment that has potential emissions risks.

5. Requirements

Regulation 111 of the Ozone Regulations states that in order to handle refrigerants or work on RAC equipment a person must both hold a RHL, and be entitled under the licence to carry out the specific work. Aircraft maintenance personnel are able to apply for an 'Aviation Transitional Licence - ATL05' which enables them to handle refrigerant for any work undertaken on air conditioning equipment on an aircraft.



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The ATL05 licence is granted under Regulation 131(2)(d) of the Ozone Regulations whereby: a relevant authority (the ARC) may grant a licence to an applicant only if satisfied that the applicant has the following:

- the knowledge
- ability
- experience necessary to competently carry out the work covered by the licence.

The ARC requires a letter from the employer indicating that the applicant satisfies the requirements to do this work. The form to apply for this licence can be found at:

http://www.arctick.org/licence_applications.php.

Currently ATL05 is a transitional licence. Therefore this licensing scheme will remain in place until such time as a nationally accepted skills set can be developed and/or found to be an appropriate basis on which to grant a licence. Once these qualifications have been established, the current licence would transition to a licence granted on the basis of the applicant demonstrating that they've attained the required qualification.

Under Regulation 133 of the Ozone Regulations, the Relevant Authority may grant a restricted licence to a person to carry out specific work if they are satisfied that the person:

- can competently carry out the work
- does not meet the conditions for the grant of a licence under regulation 131 that would entitle the person to carry out the work.

6. Implications

[Penalties](#) may apply for breaches of the Ozone Act or Ozone Regulations including:

- **Permit/licensing requirements**
Under Regulation 111 of the Ozone Regulations, it is an offence to handle RAC equipment without an RHL and penalties may apply.
- **Breaching permit or licence conditions**
If an RHL holder breaches a condition of that licence, it is an offence under Regulation 136 of the Ozone Regulations and penalties may apply.
- **Effects of breaches on gaining future permits**
Under Regulation 122 of the Ozone Regulations an individual or corporation who is convicted of an offence under the Act or Regulations, or who has had a permit or licence cancelled, may be considered unfit to hold a RAC industry permit or licence.



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7. **CASA Intentions**

CASA is working with the DoE to explore options to change these requirements so that LAMEs who have gained MEA203 and MEA303 and the AME that work under their supervision, are accepted as having satisfied regulation 133 of Ozone Regulations.

8. **Enquiries**

Questions about the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au

or in writing, to:

Airworthiness and Engineering Standards Branch
Standards Division
Civil Aviation Safety Authority
GPO Box 2005, Canberra, ACT, 2601

Questions about the RAC licensing requirements

Enquiries with regard to refrigeration and air conditioning and questions about the licensing scheme and licence requirements should be directed to:

The Australian Refrigeration Council
Email: enquire@arctick.org
Phone: 1300 55 40 23

Questions about the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* or the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*

Enquiries with regard to the requirements of the Act or Regulations should be directed to:

The Department of Environment
Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Team
Email: RAC@environment.gov.au
Phone: (02) 6274 1111

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