

7. Proper Disposal of Equipment and Refrigerant at the End of Product Life

Mindset: Protect the environment, worker, and community safety in compliance with local requirements.

OBJECTIVE

Follow good decommissioning practices to ensure that refrigerant is not vented to the atmosphere.

REFRIGERANT

The following actions are required to be performed.

- ☐ Identify refrigerant and safety classification according to ASHRAE Standard 34 or ISO 817.
- ☐ Verify refrigerant vapor pressure at room temperature.
- ☐ Recovery/recycling equipment is rated for this refrigerant.
- ☐ Refrigerant from a plant taken out of service due to mechanical failure or motor burnout is sent to a facility for reclamation or destruction.
- ☐ Analyze refrigerant to be reused for contaminants and reprocessed before reuse.
- ☐ Recycle and store refrigerant to be reused by the same owner in a suitable container, per AHRI Guideline K.
- ☐ Recover refrigerant that the same owner will not reuse into a container suitable for shipping to a reclaimer or destruction facility.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- ✓ Refrigerant has been recovered without intentional venting to the atmosphere.
- ✓ Where purity requirements can be met, refrigerant is stored in approved recovery or storage vessels for future use.
- ✓ Refrigerant and all fluids have been properly disposed of in accordance with all local laws and safety requirements.
- ✓ Proper disposal of all equipment, refrigerants, and fluids has been documented.

RECOVERY/RECYCLING EQUIPMENT

The following actions are required to be performed.

- ☐ Recovery/recycling equipment is appropriately sized for the refrigerant being recovered.
- ☐ Externally and internally (if possible) examine containers for recovered refrigerant for corrosion or other damage that may weaken the walls, heads, or joints.

RECYCLING REFRIGERANT CYLINDERS

The following actions are required to be performed.

- ☐ For nonrefillable cylinders, the refrigerant has been recovered, the valve has been opened, and the cylinder punctured, per AHRI Guideline Q.
- ☐ For nonrefillable cylinders that held flammable refrigerants, use a nonsparking pick to puncture the side of the cylinder and place the tank with other steel recyclables, per AHRI Guideline Q.
- ☐ Return refillable cylinders to the supplier or owner with the valve closed tightly and the hood cap securely placed.

For additional guidance, see *Assessing RAC Plant Sustainability*.

