



EPA Section 608 Refrigerant

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Practice Questions

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1. Under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, knowingly releasing (venting) refrigerant while servicing an appliance is:

- A. Allowed if the amount is small
- B. Allowed only outdoors
- C. Prohibited
- D. Allowed for HFCs only

2. Which class of refrigerants contains chlorine and has the highest ozone-depletion potential?

- A. HFCs
- B. CFCs
- C. Hydrocarbons
- D. Ammonia blends

3. Which statement best describes an HFC refrigerant such as R-134a?

- A. Contains chlorine and depletes ozone
- B. Contains no chlorine and has zero ozone-depletion potential
- C. Is a natural refrigerant with no global-warming impact
- D. Is identical to a CFC

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4. What does the chlorine released from CFCs and HCFCs do in the stratosphere?

- A. Forms breathable oxygen
- B. Destroys ozone molecules
- C. Has no effect
- D. Increases ozone



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5. The 'three R's' of refrigerant management are:

- A. Reduce, reuse, repair
- B. Recover, recycle, reclaim
- C. Refill, recharge, recover
- D. Remove, return, resell

6. Which term means cleaning recovered refrigerant for on-site reuse using oil separation and filtration, without testing it to a purity specification?

- A. Reclaim
- B. Recover
- C. Recycle
- D. Retrofit

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7. To be sold as 'reclaimed,' recovered refrigerant must be processed to meet which purity standard?

- A. ASHRAE 15
- B. AHRI/ARI 700
- C. DOT 4BA
- D. UL 1995

8. Before an appliance is opened for major service or disposal, the technician must first:

- A. Add fresh refrigerant
- B. Recover the refrigerant
- C. Vent the system slowly
- D. Pressurize it with oxygen

9. A small, unavoidable release of refrigerant that occurs during a good-faith attempt to recover is known as:

- A. A violation
- B. A de minimis release
- C. Reclamation
- D. A purge loss

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10. Recovery and recycling equipment manufactured for use must be:

- A. Painted yellow
- B. Certified by an EPA-approved equipment-testing organization
- C. Rented from the EPA
- D. Rebuilt every year

11. Who is required to be EPA-certified before purchasing regulated refrigerant in containers smaller than 20 pounds?

- A. Anyone over 18
- B. Only equipment owners
- C. A certified technician
- D. Only retail clerks

12. Which EPA Section 608 certification type covers servicing all sizes and types of appliances?

- A. Type I
- B. Type II
- C. Type III
- D. Universal

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13. A disposable (non-refillable) refrigerant cylinder should be:

- A. Refilled with recovered refrigerant
- B. Never refilled
- C. Used as a recovery tank
- D. Stored under pressure indefinitely

14. When filling a refrigerant cylinder, the maximum it should be filled (by volume) is:

- A. 100%
- B. 95%
- C. 80%
- D. 50%



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15. Recovery cylinders are required to be:

- A. Any clean container
- B. DOT-approved and color-coded gray with a yellow top
- C. Painted blue
- D. Made of plastic

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16. Which gas should be used to pressure-test a refrigeration system for leaks?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Compressed air
- C. Dry nitrogen
- D. Acetylene

17. Refrigerant exposed to an open flame or very high temperature can decompose into:

- A. Harmless water vapor
- B. Toxic gases such as phosgene and hydrochloric acid
- C. Pure oxygen
- D. Nitrogen

18. Liquid refrigerant contacting the skin or eyes can cause:

- A. A mild warming sensation
- B. Frostbite and blindness
- C. No harm
- D. A chemical burn from acid

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19. A large refrigerant leak in an enclosed, poorly ventilated space is dangerous mainly because the refrigerant can:

- A. Catch fire instantly
- B. Displace oxygen and cause asphyxiation
- C. Turn the air acidic
- D. Freeze the room



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20. Which oil is generally required with HFC refrigerants such as R-134a and R-410A?

- A. Mineral oil
- B. Polyolester (POE) oil
- C. Motor oil
- D. Vegetable oil

21. Owners of appliances normally containing 50 pounds or more of refrigerant must:

- A. Vent leaks immediately
- B. Keep records of refrigerant added and repair leaks above the threshold
- C. Replace the system yearly
- D. Stop using the appliance

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22. Under the current leak-repair rule, the annual leak-rate trigger for comfort-cooling appliances is:

- A. 10%
- B. 20%
- C. 30%
- D. 50%

23. Under the current leak-repair rule, the annual leak-rate trigger for commercial refrigeration is:

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 20%
- D. 35%

24. The international treaty that phases out the production of ozone-depleting substances is the:

- A. Kyoto Protocol
- B. Montreal Protocol
- C. Paris Agreement
- D. Geneva Convention

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25. When recovering refrigerant into a recovery cylinder, you must:

- A. Fill it completely
- B. Weigh it and never exceed 80% capacity
- C. Heat it above 150°F
- D. Vent the non-condensables to air

26. Recovered refrigerant of an unknown or mixed type should be:

- A. Reused in any system
- B. Sold as virgin refrigerant
- C. Sent for reclamation or destruction, never reused
- D. Vented slowly

27. The substitute-refrigerant program that reviews and lists acceptable alternatives is called:

- A. SNAP
- B. SEER
- C. ODP
- D. GWP

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28. Which property describes how much a refrigerant contributes to thinning the ozone layer?

- A. GWP
- B. ODP
- C. SEER
- D. TXV

29. An access (piercing/saddle) valve installed to recover from a sealed system that has no service port should be:

- A. Left on permanently with no concern
- B. Leak-checked, because it can be a long-term leak source
- C. Used only on low-pressure chillers
- D. Filled with oxygen first



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30. Technician certification under Section 608 is:

- A. Valid for two years only
- B. Does not expire
- C. Renewed every year
- D. Only valid in one state



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. C — Prohibited

Section 608 prohibits the knowing release of refrigerant during the maintenance, service, repair, or disposal of appliances. The venting prohibition applied to CFCs and HCFCs starting July 1, 1992, and to most substitutes (including HFCs) starting November 15, 1995.

2. B — CFCs

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) such as R-11 and R-12 are fully halogenated and contain chlorine, giving them the highest ozone-depletion potential. They have been phased out under the Montreal Protocol.

3. B — Contains no chlorine and has zero ozone-depletion potential

HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) contain no chlorine, so their ozone-depletion potential is zero. They do, however, have a global-warming potential, which is why their use is also being managed.

4. B — Destroys ozone molecules

Once chlorine reaches the stratosphere, a single chlorine atom can destroy many ozone molecules in a repeating catalytic cycle, thinning the ozone layer that shields the Earth from ultraviolet radiation.

5. B — Recover, recycle, reclaim

Recover means to remove refrigerant and store it externally. Recycle means to clean it for reuse on site (oil separation, single or multiple passes). Reclaim means to reprocess it to meet the ARI/AHRI 700 new-product specification, which requires laboratory analysis.

6. C — Recycle

Recycling cleans refrigerant for reuse on the same site through oil separation and one or more passes through filter-driers. Unlike reclaiming, it does not require chemical analysis to a purity standard.

7. B — AHRI/ARI 700

Reclaimed refrigerant must be reprocessed to the purity level specified by AHRI (formerly ARI) Standard 700 and verified by chemical analysis. Reclamation can only be performed off site by an EPA-certified reclaimer.

8. B — Recover the refrigerant

Refrigerant must be recovered into an approved external container before the appliance is opened or disposed of, because venting refrigerant to the atmosphere is prohibited.

9. B — A de minimis release

Releases that are small and unavoidable during good-faith attempts to recycle or recover refrigerant (such as the loss when connecting or disconnecting hoses) are considered de minimis and are not treated as a violation of the venting prohibition.

10. B — Certified by an EPA-approved equipment-testing organization

Recovery and recycling equipment must be certified by an EPA-approved testing organization (such as UL or AHRI) to meet EPA performance standards.



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11. C — A certified technician

The sale of regulated refrigerant in containers smaller than 20 pounds is restricted to EPA Section 608 certified technicians. Since January 1, 2018, this sales restriction also applies to HFC and other substitute refrigerants.

12. D — Universal

A Universal certification is earned by passing the Core section plus the Type I, Type II, and Type III sections, qualifying the technician to service small appliances, high-pressure, and low-pressure equipment.

13. B — Never refilled

Disposable cylinders are DOT-approved for a single use only. Refilling them is illegal and dangerous because they are not built or tested for repeated pressurization.

14. C — 80%

A refrigerant cylinder must never be filled past 80% of its volume by liquid. The remaining space allows the liquid to expand safely if the temperature rises, preventing hydrostatic rupture.

15. B — DOT-approved and color-coded gray with a yellow top

Refillable recovery cylinders must be DOT-approved pressure vessels. The recognized color code for a recovery cylinder is a gray body with a yellow shoulder/top.

16. C — Dry nitrogen

Dry nitrogen (often with a trace of refrigerant for detection) is used to pressure-test for leaks. Oxygen and compressed air must never be used because mixing them with refrigerant oil under pressure can cause a violent explosion.

17. B — Toxic gases such as phosgene and hydrochloric acid

When refrigerant contacts an open flame or a hot surface, it can break down into highly toxic and corrosive products such as phosgene, hydrofluoric acid, and hydrochloric acid. Always ventilate the area.

18. B — Frostbite and blindness

Liquid refrigerant boils at a very low temperature, so contact with skin or eyes can cause severe frostbite. Eye contact can cause blindness, so safety goggles and gloves should always be worn.

19. B — Displace oxygen and cause asphyxiation

Most refrigerants are heavier than air and can accumulate near the floor of a confined space, displacing oxygen and creating an asphyxiation hazard.

20. B — Polyolester (POE) oil

HFC refrigerants are not compatible with mineral oil; they require synthetic polyolester (POE) lubricant. Mineral and alkylbenzene oils were used with CFCs and HCFCs.

21. B — Keep records of refrigerant added and repair leaks above the threshold

Owners and operators of appliances with a full charge of 50 pounds or more must keep servicing records and must repair leaks that exceed the applicable annual leak-rate threshold within the required time.

22. A — 10%

For comfort-cooling appliances with a charge of 50 pounds or more, leaks must be repaired when the annual leak rate exceeds 10%. (Commercial refrigeration is 20% and industrial process refrigeration is 30%.)



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23. C — 20%

Commercial refrigeration appliances with a 50-pound-or-greater charge must have leaks repaired when the annual leak rate exceeds 20%.

24. B — Montreal Protocol

The Montreal Protocol is the international agreement under which nations phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs and HCFCs.

25. B — Weigh it and never exceed 80% capacity

Recovery cylinders must be weighed so they are never filled beyond 80% of capacity. Overfilling leaves no room for liquid expansion and can cause the cylinder to rupture. A float or scale shutoff helps prevent overfilling.

26. C — Sent for reclamation or destruction, never reused

Mixed or contaminated refrigerant cannot be identified or cleaned to spec on site. It must be sent off for reclamation or destruction; it must never be vented or charged into a system.

27. A — SNAP

EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program evaluates and lists substitutes for ozone-depleting substances as acceptable or unacceptable for specific end uses.

28. B — ODP

Ozone-Depletion Potential (ODP) measures a substance's ability to destroy stratospheric ozone, relative to CFC-11 which has an ODP of 1.0. Global-Warming Potential (GWP) is a separate measure of climate impact.

29. B — Leak-checked, because it can be a long-term leak source

Saddle/piercing valves can leak over time. After use they should be leak-checked, and many technicians remove or properly seal them rather than leaving an unreliable long-term connection.

30. B — Does not expire

EPA Section 608 technician certification does not expire and is valid nationwide. There is no renewal requirement under the current rule.



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