

Part 494 Factsheet

Reducing Hydrofluorocarbon Emissions



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are potent greenhouse gases often used in refrigeration and cooling equipment. HFCs have a global warming potential (GWP) – a metric that measures the ability of gases to trap heat in the atmosphere – hundreds to thousands of times higher than carbon dioxide. HFCs and other high GWP substances are used in a variety of home and commercial products and equipment. The Part 494 HFC Standards and Reporting regulation adopted in January 2025 will help control emissions of HFCs and substitutes that contribute to global climate change.

Overview of the Final Part 494 Regulation

As part of New York State's ongoing implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) to reduce the pollutants that contribute to climate change, DEC adopted an amended Part 494 regulation on HFCs. The final regulation includes prohibitions on new products and equipment that contain HFCs and controls on HFC leaks in commercial – not everyday consumer – equipment. As these controls are phased in over time, they will help advance the development of better technologies to reduce emissions and make these technologies available at a greater scale providing more energy-efficient and cost effective options to consumers and businesses.

The final regulation was developed after years of input from potentially affected businesses and other stakeholders and public comment on a proposed rule in 2024. The regulation promotes the replacement of HFCs with equally effective alternatives that are better for the environment. Companies operating in New York are already adopting technologies to make the switch.

DEC's requirements are aligned with actions taken by California, Washington, and other U.S. Climate Alliance states.

- The regulation will help transition businesses into compliance and would significantly reduce HFCs.
- The regulation does not force any business to replace existing products or equipment prior to the end of their useful life. The regulation phases out the use of new HFCs and HFCs in new products and equipment.
- The regulation would provide substantial energy savings, particularly in cooler climates like New York State, with no direct costs to consumers. Using energy-efficient refrigerants means businesses—especially big commercial stores—spend less on energy costs. A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) analysis found that when broken down by each state's population, New Yorkers could see up to \$540 million in energy cost savings.
- The regulation considers available alternatives to HFCs. The compliance timeline varies by product and equipment type and recognizes the status of available alternatives on the market.
- DEC offers multiple options for supermarkets to comply with the regulation, including replacing refrigerants with low GWP (less than 10), annual emission loss controls, or a combination of both. The program offers multiple options for compliance and extensions, including for supermarkets in disadvantaged communities.
- The regulation allows for regulatory flexibility in the event a compliant substance is not currently or potentially available.
- The regulation is based on EPA regulations and designed to align with federal and international HFC production phasedowns, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- DEC is developing a new grant program based on the successful supermarket refrigeration demonstration program with the North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council (NASRC) and the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute (P2I). The upcoming grant program will provide funding to food stores and food banks, with a priority on disadvantaged communities, to install refrigeration systems that use natural refrigerants.

Entities Affected by Part 494 Regulation. Commercial entities that supply (manufacture, sell, distribute, or install) bulk regulated substances or products and systems that contain regulated substances in specified sectors may be affected by this regulation. The specified sectors include refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat pumps, foams, aerosols, and solvents. Additionally, owners or operators of commercial equipment that contains more than 50 pounds of refrigerant may be affected by this regulation. Residential users and consumers are not regulated under Part 494.

Regulated Substances. Part 494 establishes requirements on any chemical intended to be used with covered products and systems and that has a GWP20 greater than 10 or that is reasonably anticipated to have GWP20 greater than 10. Regulated substances include HFCs as well as any potential substitutes including CFCs, HCFCs, HFOs, and blends thereof. The regulation also establishes requirements regarding “bulk” regulated substances with high GWP values.

COMPONENTS OF THE PART 494 REGULATION

- Prohibitions on new products, systems, and facilities
- Prohibitions on bulk regulated substances and small cans
- Labeling requirements for new equipment and foam products
- Administrative requirements for suppliers (producers, manufacturers, sellers, and distributors)
- Administrative requirements for refrigerant reclaimers
- Refrigerant Management Program with administrative requirements for owners/operators
- Supermarket Refrigerant Program for owners of chain supermarkets
- Variances

Prohibitions on New Products, Systems, and Facilities

The amended Part 494 regulation adopted in 2025 includes prohibitions on newly manufactured or installed products and systems. Part 494 adopts the same distinction between products and systems as is found in the corresponding federal regulation in 40 CFR Part 84. A product is functional upon leaving a manufacturing facility and contains any necessary regulated substances. Examples of products are a residential refrigerator or window air-conditioner. A system is assembled or installed in the field and charged with regulated substances on-site to be functional, such as a supermarket system or split air conditioning system with indoor and outdoor components.

Part 494 and State-level “SNAP” Prohibitions. In 2020, New York finalized the original Part 494 regulation which adopted a set of federal prohibitions on the sale of HFCs in new products and equipment in refrigeration, air conditioning chillers, foams, and aerosol propellant sectors. Since then, more than a dozen other U.S. states have adopted the same prohibitions. These prohibitions are still in place and can be reviewed in the full regulation.

New Prohibitions Covered in Both Federal and State Regulations. The amended Part 494 regulation adopted in 2024 includes certain prohibitions on newly manufactured or installed products and systems directly from federal regulations in 40 CFR Part 84.54 as they were originally adopted by EPA in 2023, except where Part 494 has a later date. The federal date of January 1, 2025, has been replaced with January 9, 2025, or the effective date of Part 494. A single prohibition date has also been applied to the residential air-conditioning subsector as opposed to an earlier 2025 date for products in the federal rule. See the federal rule for additional explanation of the GWP100 limits. Products may continue to be sold for one additional year in New York State after the applicable prohibition date. See the Part 494 regulation for exemptions, such as for applicable building permits.

Aerosol Propellant and Solvent Products		
Subsector	EPA GWP100 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
All products except those specified in 40 CFR Part 84.54(a)(16)	150	January 9, 2025
All products	150	January 1, 2028

Foam Products		
Subsector	EPA GWP100 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
All products specified in 40 CFR Part 84.54(a)(14)	150	January 9, 2025

Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning, and Heat Pump Products and Systems		
Subsector	EPA GWP100 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
Air-conditioning or heat pump chillers	700	January 9, 2025
Residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pumps (including residential dehumidifiers)	700	January 1, 2026
Variable refrigerant flow (VRF/VRV)	700	January 1, 2026
Transport refrigeration (intermodal and marine)	700	January 9, 2025
Retail food refrigeration stand-alone units	150	January 9, 2025
Refrigerated food processing and dispensing equipment	150 or as specified	January 1, 2027
Automatic commercial ice machines	150 or as specified	January 1, 2026 or 2027

Additional New Prohibitions in New York State. The following prohibitions apply in New York State in addition to the prohibitions listed above. All near-term prohibitions are similar to prohibitions in 40 CFR Part 84 but are not identical. See the Part 494 rulemaking documents for additional explanation. All products may continue to be sold for one additional year in New York State after the applicable prohibition date. See the Part 494 regulation for any relevant exemptions, such as for systems with applicable building permits. Note that “other” HVAC refers to other uses of refrigerant to heat/cool air or water, including heat pump water heaters and clothes dryers.

Aerosol Propellant and Solvent Products		
Subsector	NY GWP20 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
All products	10	January 1, 2034

Foam Products		
Subsector	EPA GWP100 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
All products	20	January 1, 2030

Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning, and Heat Pump Products		
Subsector	EPA GWP100 Limit	NYS Prohibition Date
Air-conditioning chillers	20	January 1, 2030
Heat pump chillers	20	January 1, 2034
Residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pumps	10	January 1, 2034
Variable refrigerant flow (VRF/VRV)	10	January 1, 2030

All other residential HVAC	10	January 1, 2027
All other commercial HVAC	10	January 1, 2034
Household refrigerators and freezers	10	January 9, 2025
Vending machines	10	January 9, 2025
Refrigerated food processing and dispensing equipment	10	January 1, 2034
Retail food refrigeration stand-alone units	10	January 1, 2034
Air-conditioning chillers	20	January 1, 2030
Data centers	2690	January 1, 2026
	10	January 1, 2030
Ice rinks	580	January 1, 2026
	10	January 1, 2030
Industrial process refrigeration chillers	2690	January 1, 2026
	10	January 1, 2030
New retail food refrigeration facilities	10	January 1, 2026
Supermarket systems, remote condensing units, cold storage warehouses, and industrial process refrigeration systems:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerant charge capacity of 50 pounds or greater 	580	January 1, 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerant charge capacity of less than 50 pounds 	943	January 1, 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment 	10	January 1, 2034

Prohibitions on Bulk Regulated Substances and Small Cans

Part 494 adopts similar prohibitions as in the State of California regarding the sale of virgin bulk regulated substances and small containers of automotive refrigerant. These prohibitions do not apply to the use of reclaimed substances or to service repairs. Part 494 does not regulate the use of these substances such as for servicing, but suppliers and owners/operators may be subject to requirements outlined below to monitor the use of these substances. * See the Enforcement Discretion letter at <https://on.ny.gov/climateregs>

Prohibited Substance	NYS Prohibition Date
Virgin bulk regulated substances GWP100 >2200	January 9, 2025 *
Virgin bulk regulated substances GWP100 >1500	January 1, 2030
Virgin bulk regulated substances GWP100 >750	January 1, 2033
Virgin bulk regulated substances GWP20 >1600	January 1, 2040
Virgin small containers of automotive refrigerant GWP20 >10	January 1, 2027

Labeling Requirements for New Equipment and Foam Products

Starting January 9, 2025, newly manufactured products and systems covered by section 494-1.6 must be accompanied by a suite of disclosures including a written disclosure to the buyer, information on a public website or safety data sheet, and a label for the product/system or packaging. The information includes the regulated substances contained in the product or system, reclaimed substances, and the date of manufacture or install. For systems that are intended to be used with 50 pounds or more of regulated substances, the disclosures must include sufficient information for an owner or operator to properly label the system.

The specific requirements can be found in Section 494-1.6 of the regulation. The disclosure statements and labels may be combined with any such requirements from other jurisdictions so long as all required information is provided, such as the federal requirements in 40 CFR Part 84.58. For foam products, the disclosure requirement applies to the foam product itself and not to any other product or system in which the foam product may be later installed, such as an appliance, consumer good, or building.

Requirements for Suppliers and Reclaimers

For Producers, Manufacturers, Sellers, Distributors: Starting January 9, 2025, entities that produce, manufacture, sell, or distribute bulk regulated substances or products/systems that use regulated substances must maintain records of transactions as described in Section 494-1.7. All covered entities must register with DEC by June 1, 2025, and submit their first annual report on March 31, 2026, with total quantities of each regulated substance supplied to New York State in the 2025 calendar year. Equipment manufacturers will also maintain records and register information regarding products and systems intended for sale in New York State.

For Reclaimers: Entities that reclaim refrigerant recovered in New York State with the intent of supplying other parties, are also required to maintain records, register, and report annually to DEC per Section 494-1.7.

Refrigerant Management Program

For Owners or Operators of Equipment: Part 494 establishes a Refrigerant Management Program (RMP) with requirements for commercial entities to register and label covered equipment, conduct leak monitoring, and to address leaks. The covered equipment includes refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment with 50lbs or greater of refrigerant that is used in commercial facilities or buildings. The specific requirements and deadlines are based on the amount of refrigerant as estimated per Section 494-1.3(73). Example equipment includes supermarket racks, remote condensing units, cold storage warehouses, industrial process refrigeration, chillers in the listed subsectors, and VRFs. The RMP does not cover residential equipment except where the equipment and facility are owned or operated by a commercial entity for commercial purposes.

Large Equipment (Contains >1500lbs of Refrigerant)	
Requirement	Deadline
Begin monthly leak inspections or install an automative leak detection system	January 9, 2025
Follow the leak repair requirements	January 9, 2025
Register and label equipment	June 1, 2025, or by June 1 annually
Install an automatic leak detection system (for refrigeration equipment)	June 1, 2025, or within 30 days of installation
Submit the annual report	March 31, 2026, and March 31 annually
Maintain records	January 9, 2025, or after the dates above

Medium Equipment (Contains 200-1499lbs of Refrigerant)	
Requirement	Deadline
Begin quarterly leak inspections or install an automative leak detection system	January 9, 2025
Follow the leak repair requirements	January 9, 2025

Register and label equipment	June 1, 2026, or by June 1 after installation
Submit the annual report	March 31, 2027, and March 31 annually
Maintain records	January 9, 2025, or after the dates above

Small Equipment (Contains 50-199lbs of Refrigerant)	
Requirement	Deadline
Begin annual inspections or install an automotive leak detection system	January 9, 2025
Follow the leak repair requirements	January 9, 2025
Register and label equipment	June 1, 2028, or by June 1 after installation
Maintain records	January 9, 2025, or after the dates above

Supermarket Refrigerant Program

For Owners of Supermarket Chains: A business entity owning or operating 20 or more retail food facilities in New York (or 100 facilities nationwide) that contain supermarket systems with 200 pounds of refrigerant or greater must participate in the Supermarket Refrigerant Program. These entities must register with DEC by June 1, 2025, and provide updated information annually. By January 1, 2035, the supermarket chains are required to either transition their covered equipment to alternative equipment that uses refrigerants with a GWP20 of 10 or less or to control leakage of their existing equipment to a comparable emissions quantity. The Supermarket Refrigerant Program provides flexibility for compliance through a Transition Plan, which must be received by DEC by January 1, 2027. No supermarket chain is required to submit a Transition Plan and any supermarket chain may submit an attestation at any time that they do not own or operate covered equipment. See Section 494-2.8 for more details.

Variances

Entities subject to the prohibitions above (on substances, products, or systems), owners/operators of equipment with an obligation to repair refrigerant leaks, and owners of supermarket chains may apply for a variance. Applicants must meet the criteria for impossibility, force majeure (an extreme event out of their control), or economic hardship. Applications may be posted publicly for a 30-day public comment period. Applications for variance based on economic hardship are intended for businesses located in disadvantaged communities that meet the New York State definition of either a retail food establishment or a small business. The criteria, requirements, and procedures are described in Section 494-1.8. Electronic application forms are available on the DEC website.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on HFCs, the Part 494 regulation, and electronic forms are available at the following websites. Questions may be sent to climate.regs@dec.ny.gov.

- NYSDEC Climate Change Regulatory Revisions: <https://on.ny.gov/climateregs>
- Part 494/495 Requirements for Suppliers and Owners or Operators: <https://on.ny.gov/fgasreporting>
- Reducing Hydrofluorocarbon Emissions to Combat Climate Change: <https://on.ny.gov/hfcs>