



HFC Management and the AIM Act Overview for Small Businesses

What is the AIM Act?

The American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act is a federal law passed in 2020 that grants the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants by 85% by the year 2036.

To achieve this goal the Act will:

- Establish refrigerant management requirements for appliance owners and operators to prevent leaks.
- Guide the refrigerant industry's transition to next-generation (environmentally friendly) refrigerant technology such as hydrocarbons (e.g. propane and isobutane), ammonia, and carbon dioxide (CO₂).

What are HFCs and why are they regulated?

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a common type of refrigerant used in air-conditioning and cooling systems. Although they were developed to replace ozone-depleting substances like CFCs, HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases. Many have a Global Warming Potential (GWP) thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide, meaning even small leaks can contribute significantly to climate change.

AIM Act Appliance Management Requirements

If you have an appliance with a full charge of 15 or more pounds of a regulated refrigerant:

Requirements as of Jan. 1, 2026:

- Leak Maintenance Practices
- Recordkeeping
- Use EPA-Certified Technicians

Additionally, you may have to:

- Create appliance retrofit and retirement plans.
- Use an Automatic Leak Detection System.
- Send reports to EPA.

AIM Act Procurement Restrictions

In the coming years:

- HFC-containing refrigerants will become more expensive and less available.
- Certain HFC-containing products will no longer be available on the market.
- The installation of certain HFC-containing systems will be banned.

Quick AIM Act Compliance Checklist

- Inventory all your appliances that contain AIM Act-regulated substances.
- Create a recordkeeping system.
- Understand appliance maintenance and servicing requirements.
- Ensure your technician is EPA-certified.
- Know what reports are required by EPA.
- Develop a plan for appliance procurement and retrofit/retirement.

Visit the **Clean Air Branch (CAB) website** for resources (health.hawaii.gov/cab/):

- Recordkeeping Templates
- Reporting Forms
- Compliance Tools, and more



For specific requirements, read the **AIM Act Compliance Guide for Small Businesses** →



Contact the Clean Air Branch (CAB):

Web: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/>

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