



SUBMISSION ON ELECTROTECHNOLOGY KEY FINDINGS PAPER

Refrigerants Australia thanks the IRC for the opportunity to comment on the Key Findings Paper. We are gratified that the IRC recognises the value of consultation and appreciates industry input. In our opinion, this engagement is fundamentally important to meeting industry requirements and ensuring training packages are appropriate and well targeted..

Refrigerants Australia – who we are

Refrigerants Australia is the peak body covering the supply chain of refrigerants both in bulk and in equipment. Our members include:

- Importers providing in 90%+ of all bulk refrigerants sold into Queensland
- Equipment importers and manufacturers supplying in excess of 80% of air conditioners sold in Queensland and a sizeable percentage of refrigeration kit sold in Queensland represented through the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association (AREMA)
- Refrigerant wholesalers and the Australian Refrigerant Wholesalers Association providing refrigerant and parts to Queensland.
- Contractor organisations, including AMCA, RACCA and VASA representing hundreds of companies, contractors and tradespeople across the State.
- Refrigerant Reclaim Australia, an award winning industry led and funded program that collects and destroys old refrigerant.

The Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association (CESA) also supports this submission.

As a result of our members, we have a good view on issues impacting on our sector both nationally and internationally.

Overarching Position on Training

Refrigerants Australia believe that appropriate training is crucial for the refrigeration and air conditioning industry (RAC) today and will likely become even more critical in the years to come. There are multiple reasons for this, including:

- The more than 45 million pieces of RAC equipment are responsible for over 20% of Australia's electricity use. Poorly installed or maintained equipment can lead to an energy penalty of 40% or more, resulting in increased electricity demand and costs.

- The value of the equipment and activities in the sector is large, representing over 2% of GDP and in excess of \$26 billion annually. Poorly installed or maintained equipment suffers more breakdowns and has a shorter lifespan costing the economy tens of millions of dollars annually.
- Around 173,000 people are employed in more than 20,000 businesses operating in the RAC industry.
- There are genuine safety concerns as all refrigerants have risk: high pressure, flammability and/or toxicity. These risks are highest for the individuals working directly with refrigerant and the new refrigerants being introduced these risks will increase over time.
- Refrigeration and air conditioning equipment are sophisticated requiring a high degree of technical expertise to ensure they work well and safely, and the level of complexity is increasing quickly

Given the points above, it is clear that there are compelling reasons to ensure that Australia's training for technicians working in the RAC industry is robust, comprehensive and ensure high standards are met.

Response to the Key Findings Paper

At this point, our most significant concern is that the requirements for training future participants of the RAC industry are not achieving the focus needed and will not be well targeted. Refrigerant Australia contends that there needs to be greater engagement with the RAC industry – particularly equipment suppliers and contracting organisations – to ensure the outcomes meet current and future industry expectations. We are open as to how this is achieved, and are willing to have a further conversation evaluating various approaches as to how this can be achieved.

Please feel free to contact Greg Picker, Executive Director of Refrigerants Australia, to discuss any issues you may have. He can be reached on 0403 74 1715 or greg.picker@refrigerantsaustalia.org.