

The R-22 Phase Out— Information & 3 Options to Know



R-22 is the most commonly used refrigerant in commercial HVAC and refrigeration equipment. Scientists and environmentalists indicate that this chlorine-based gas refrigerant plays a role in depleting the ozone layer and contributes to global warming. Due to its harmful effects on the environment, R-22 is being phased out under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Act in favor of more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Did You Know?

There is no shortage of R-22 alternatives in the market place, and those marketed as “drop-ins” may not be an approved or appropriate alternative. Keep in mind that neither energy savings, nor capacity, nor operating improvement is a valid basis for retrofitting R-22.

Building Owners Have 3 Options:

Option:	Best For:
1. Replace R-22 equipment with new, more efficient equipment	Equipment that is approaching or beyond its useful life
2. Retrofit equipment with an approved R-22 alternative (but with a slight reduction in capacity and efficiency)	Older equipment with remaining useful life
3. Wait to take action	Equipment in good working order where refrigerant replacement cannot be justified

The Phase Out

The EPA began phasing out R-22 in the early 2000s and although a complete phase out of R-22 production was always planned for 2020—when no new R-22 will be produced or imported—the EPA accelerated the phase-out schedule in late 2014.

As a result, R-22 availability from 2015 through 2020 has now been significantly reduced, as reflected in the chart below. Annual demand now exceeds allowable production limits by a wide margin. As a result, inventory and availability of R-22 will decrease, which we anticipate will cause costs of R-22 to continue to rise for both new and reclaimed refrigerant.

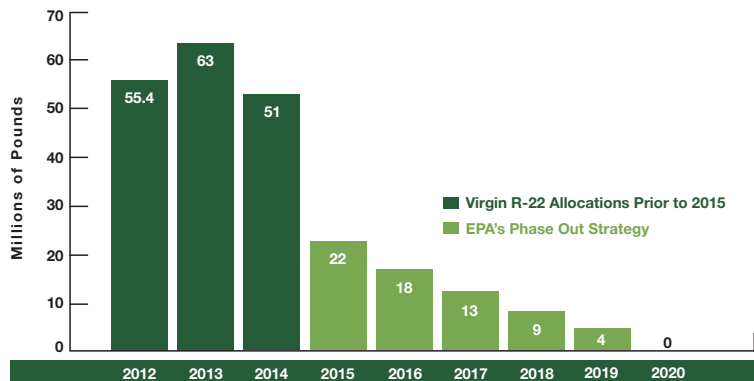
Impact on Building Owners

EMCOR is the largest non-OEM contractor in the industry in the U.S., so you can rest assured that we have access to enough R-22 at this time to meet your equipment needs. Be aware: Rising R-22 costs will result in more expensive refrigeration-related repairs. For facilities with equipment that is either approaching or beyond its useful life, this could become a significant unplanned expense.

Bottom-line:

There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution, so understanding the lifecycle of your systems and developing a strategy to avoid common pitfalls that could lead to future problems is paramount.

R-22 Proposed Allocation Rule



CALL US TODAY. Our professionals will help assess your equipment and provide guidance on the most efficient choice.

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