

Amendment to the AIM GWP Limit Rule

EPA Grants Additional Year to Install AC/HP Systems

On December 20th, the U.S. EPA finalized an interim final rule, amending a key provision of the regulation entitled “Restrictions on the Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons Under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020” (88 FR 73098, October 24, 2023). The amendment allows one additional year, until January 1, 2026, for the installation of new air conditioning and heat pump systems using components manufactured or imported prior to January 1, 2025.

The rule update is final and takes effect directly upon publication in the Federal Register. EPA will accept comments for 45 days following publication as a matter of administrative procedure.

This action by the EPA has been taken under the “good cause” exception in the Administrative Procedures Act in response to outreach by industry associations expressing concern for air conditioning and heat pump systems subject to the install-date deadline. EPA has acknowledged that the risk that the final rule posed to manufacturers, distributors, and home builders justifies the “good cause” action to avoid the stranding of inventory.

Separately, EPA intends to address industry concerns related to VRF systems.

Once published, the full text of the interim final rule can be found at [Regulations.gov](https://www.epa.gov/regulations) in Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0643. EPA has also made additional updates to their [FAQ page](#).

Key Takeaways

EPA signed an interim final rule to address concerns regarding the January 1, 2025, installation compliance date for residential heat pump and air conditioning systems

The final regulation is amended to allow for installation of higher-GWP HFC equipment manufactured or imported before January 1, 2025, to be installed until January 1, 2026

For more information on the final rule, visit the EPA the rulemaking page:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/regulatory-actions-technology-transitions>

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