

Checklist for Commercial Kitchen Operators: Preparing for Refrigerant Changes

Use this quick checklist to make sure your kitchen, facility, or operation stays compliant and ready for future refrigerant regulations.

1. Identify Your Current Refrigerant Types

- List every piece of refrigeration equipment
- Note the refrigerant type used (R-404A, R-410A, R-134a, etc.)
- Record each refrigerant's GWP value
- Flag any units using high-GWP refrigerants

2. Evaluate Equipment Age & Condition

- Document installation year for each unit
- Identify equipment nearing end-of-life
- Check maintenance logs for recurring failures
- Review whether parts/refrigerant remain readily available

3. Check Upcoming Compliance Deadlines

- Confirm if your equipment type is included in the EPA's proposed rule
- Review relevant deadlines for manufacturing, installation, and usage
- Track potential deadline extensions or clarifications from EPA

4. Review Manufacturer Transition Plans

- Visit manufacturer pages or contact reps for refrigerant updates
- Confirm if your models are being redesigned for low-GWP refrigerants
- Identify upcoming model replacements and potential supply gaps
- Ask about recommended low-GWP alternatives (R-290, R-448A, R-455A, etc.)

5. Assess Future Service & Maintenance Risks

- Determine if technicians in your region support low-GWP refrigerants
- Evaluate the long-term cost and availability of your current refrigerant
- Identify systems likely to face increased service costs

6. Plan for Equipment Replacement or Upgrades

- Prioritize high-GWP or aging units for replacement
- Budget for future equipment transitions
- Consider low-GWP systems for new projects and remodels
- Explore incentives or rebates for energy-efficient or low-GWP units

7. Update Internal Procurement Requirements

- Add refrigerant type to purchasing specifications
- Require vendors to disclose GWP values
- Verify that sales reps provide compliant model options
- Include refrigerant compliance as a bid evaluation factor

8. Train Staff on New Refrigerant Standards

- Provide basic refrigerant awareness training
- Update SOPs for equipment inspection and basic troubleshooting
- Ensure staff know the risks of mixing or incorrectly replacing refrigerants

9. Maintain Documentation

- Keep records of all refrigerants used on-site
- Save equipment data plates and spec sheets
- Document changes, retrofits, or refrigerant conversions
- Maintain EPA or local compliance paperwork

10. Partner With a Trusted Equipment Expert

- Engage Aldevra early for equipment planning
- Request help evaluating low-GWP options
- Schedule installation aligned with compliance timelines
- Use Aldevra for procurement, installation, and long-term support