

Remote Refrigeration Is Changing: New Rules Start Jan. 1, 2026

The Big Picture

New federal regulations will require remote refrigeration systems to transition to A2L refrigerants—a class of mildly flammable, low-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants.

This means projects installed after Jan. 1, 2026, must use A2L refrigerants—even if the equipment was purchased beforehand.

Repair vs. Replace

You can still repair/service legacy systems.

However, if **75%+** of evaporators and **100%** of racks, condensers, and loads are replaced the system is considered “new” and must comply.

What the Industry Needs To Know

- Date of Commissioning is Everything: Systems started after Jan. 1, 2026, must use A2L refrigerants. No exceptions or sell-through allowances apply to remote refrigeration.
- Updating quotes and specifications for projects extending into 2026.
- Training teams on A2L system installation, piping practices, and safety protocols.
- Communicating clearly with customers to avoid compliance risks or costly rework.



Refrigerant Thresholds

The new rules establish strict GWP limits:

**Under 200 lbs. of refrigerant:
Maximum GWP of 300**

**Over 200 lbs. of refrigerant:
Maximum GWP of 150**

For most walk-in systems, the industry-standard replacement will be R-454A. Larger systems, or installations in stricter states like CA and NY, may require R-454C.

Plan Ahead



We're already quoting new remote refrigeration systems for 2026 projects. Contact your RSM or Account Manager to confirm if your project needs an updated quote.