

2023 -- S 0858

=====  
LC002334  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- 2021 ACT ON CLIMATE

Introduced By: Senators Gu, and Pearson

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-6.2 of the General Laws entitled "2021 Act on Climate" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-6.2-13. Minimizing the leakage of high-global warming potential refrigerants.**

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following  
5 meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

6 (1) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of environmental management.

7 (2) "Executive officer" means a program management officer designated by the department  
8 of environmental management for the purposes of enforcing this section.

9 (3) "Stationary" means or is meeting at least one of the following conditions:

10 (i) Is installed in a building, structure, or facility;

11 (ii) Is attached to a foundation, or if not so attached, will reside at the same location for  
12 more than twelve (12) consecutive months; or

13 (iii) Is located at the same single location on a permanent basis for at least two (2)  
14 consecutive years, and operates at that single location at least three (3) months each year.

15 (4) "Stationary refrigeration system" means non-residential stationary equipment that is an  
16 industrial process refrigeration, a commercial refrigeration, or other refrigeration appliance with a  
17 single refrigerant circuit that requires more than fifty pounds (50 lbs.) of any combination of high  
18 global warming potential refrigerant to maintain normal operating characteristics and conditions.

19 (b) Preventing the leakage of high-global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants used in

1 stationary, non-residential refrigeration systems.

2 (1) Registration. An owner of a stationary refrigeration system in Rhode Island must  
3 register their system with the department within six (6) months of the effective date of this section.

4 (2) Change of ownership. Before any change of ownership, a person selling a stationary  
5 refrigeration system in Rhode Island must ensure that it is free of refrigerant leaks through a leak  
6 inspection performed by a certified technician. In addition, a person selling a refrigeration system  
7 that has been registered pursuant to this section must inform the buyer of the registration  
8 requirements specified in this section and must submit a change of ownership notification to the  
9 executive officer, who shall provide a copy of that notification to the department.

10 (3) Leak detection and monitoring for facilities with stationary systems. The owner of a  
11 stationary refrigeration system in Rhode Island shall conduct a leak inspection on a monthly basis  
12 using a leak detection device. Leak inspections must be performed twenty-four (24) hours after a  
13 system alert. A leak inspection device is required to determine the location of the leak.

14 (4) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to correspond with and enforce  
15 this section and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's regulations on stationary  
16 refrigeration systems in accordance with section 608 of the Clean Air Act (see regulations at 40  
17 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter C, Part 82).

18 (5) The penalty for failure to comply with this section and the rules and regulations  
19 promulgated pursuant to this section shall be a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars  
20 (\$500) for each offense.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC002334  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- 2021 ACT ON CLIMATE

\*\*\*

1           This act would require an owner of a stationary refrigeration system in Rhode Island to  
2 register their system with the Rhode Island department of environmental management. The act  
3 would also require owners to conduct a leak inspection of the system on a monthly basis.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC002334  
=====