
Regulatory Technical Brief: Federal and State Global Warming Regulations for HFC 134a

New Restrictions imposed by EPA as part of AIM Act:

The AIM Act is a Federal nationwide rule phasing out the use of global warming materials. As part of that effort, EPA is now banning the use of 134a in aerosol products as of 1/1/2025. There are excepted products that are allowed to use 134a until 1/1/2028. The list of excepted products is the same as what the states that ban 134a have allowed. There is a three year sell through for products manufactured prior to the effective dates. By 1/1/2025 all products containing 134a must state the chemical name on the label and must have a date code on the can.

History:

The aerosol industry moved to the use of HFC-134a propellant as a non-flammable alternative to Freon 22, which was being phased out due to ozone depleting potential. Since then, HFC-134a has been used for many applications that call for a non-flammable propellant, such as air dusters, electronic and electrical cleaners and non-flammable adhesives.

In 2016, the U.S. EPA published the **Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP)** rules that would have severely limited the use of HFC-134a to only uses it considered essential. The Federal SNAP rules were halted due to legal challenges and never became law. Since that time, several States have enacted their own rules that are similar to the EPA SNAP rule. California was the first to do so and other states have also followed suit.

Why are restrictions being imposed?

The short answer is that the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of HFC-134a is significant and there are replacement gases available that have less environmental impact. The EU has banned most uses of HFC-134a.

What is our purpose in providing this information?

This Technical Brief is intended to make sure that our customers are aware of the rules restricting the use of HFC-134a so that measures can be taken to restrict sales where necessary.

Even for products that are allowed under the exempted uses, compliance actions in some states may be required. For example, some of the states require that 134a be listed on the product Safety Data Sheet (SDS) in Section 3. The State of Washington requires that 134a be included on the product label as well as the SDS.

The states of Colorado, Delaware, Maryland and Massachusetts require an explanation of the date coding system be submitted.

As other states adopt these rules, it will be necessary to stay informed of the requirements. Table 1 below is the current list of States and effective dates. Table 2 lists the exempted uses that are allowed for HFC-134a.

Table 1: States with 134a Restrictions

State	Status	Aerosol Propellant Effective Date	Disclosure Requirement	Record Keeping Requirement
California	Effective	1/1/2019	No	No
Colorado	Effective	1/1/2021	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Drafting Regulatory Language	TBD	TBD	TBD
Delaware	Effective	9/1/2021	Yes	No
Maine	Legislation Signed by Governor	1/1/2022	No	Yes
Maryland	Effective	1/1/2021	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Effective	1/1/2021	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Law Signed, Waiting for Regulatory Process to Start	7/1/2020	Yes	TBD
New York	Effective	1/1/2021	No	No
Oregon	Proposed Legislation	1/1/2022	TBD	TBD
Pennsylvania	Drafting Regulatory Language	TBD	TBD	TBD
Rhode Island	Effective August 1, 2021	1/1/2022	Yes	No
Texas	Proposed Legislation	1/1/2023	TBD	TBD
Vermont	Effective	1/1/2021	No	No
Virginia	Effective June 1, 2021	1/1/2022	Yes	Yes
Washington	Effective	1/1/2020	Yes	No

Table compiled 7/19/21 by Household and commercial Products Association.

Table 2: Exempted Uses of 134a

<p>HFC-134a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning products for removal of grease, flux and other soils from electrical equipment or electronics; • Refrigerant flushes; • Products for sensitivity testing of smoke detectors; • Lubricants and freeze sprays for electrical equipment or electronics; • Sprays for aircraft maintenance; • Sprays containing corrosion preventive compounds used in the maintenance of aircraft, electrical equipment or electronics, or military equipment; • Pesticides for use near electrical wires, in aircraft, in total release insecticide foggers, or in certified organic use pesticides for which EPA has specifically disallowed all other lower-GWP propellants; • Mold release agents and mold cleaners; • Lubricants and cleaners for spinnerettes for synthetic fabrics; • Duster sprays specifically for removal of dust from • photographic negatives, semiconductor chips, specimens under electron microscopes, and energized electrical equipment; • Adhesives and sealants in large canisters; • Document preservation sprays; • FDA-approved MDIs for medical purposes; • Wound care sprays; • Topical coolant sprays for pain relief; and • Products for removing bandage adhesives from skin.
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Where can more information about these regulations be found?

For the text of the rules, proposed rules or status of rulemaking it is necessary to go to each State’s website. The rules and documentation are generally located in the Air Quality Divisions tab/website.

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