



# IT'S ILLEGAL TO "TOP UP" AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

Air conditioning refrigerant leaks (whether in vehicles, ag equipment, home or building systems) are potentially harmful to the equipment and damaging to the environment if left leaking. If a system is not cooling well or "low on refrigerant", there's possibly a refrigerant line leak. A certified trained service professional can diagnose and leak test according to standards and make a permanent repair to the unit.

**It is against the law to "Top Up" refrigerant** (just adding more refrigerant to a system). Under Manitoba law, refrigerant systems must be "leak tested" and permanently repaired. Manitoba Certified Refrigerant Service Technicians are trained to capture your remaining refrigerant, to perform the leak test, and repair all leak sources BEFORE recharging your system. It's their responsibility to record the results of your leak test, and to ensure it is repaired, under provincial law.

**Wrongful servicing can lead to penalties of up to \$1,000,000 for companies and fines of \$100,000 for persons and imprisonment.**

**Repairing your air conditioning system properly is not only a good idea, IT'S THE LAW...**

To learn more about acceptable leak testing procedures, visit [www.mopia.ca/outreach/leak-testing](http://www.mopia.ca/outreach/leak-testing)

Any suspicious air conditioning service practices should be reported to an Environment Officer at your local Manitoba Conservation office at **204-945-7100**.

**For the full regulations, visit:**

[www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/ods](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/ods)

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## AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE Do's & DON'TS

### DO'S

Any time there is a refrigerant leak, a thorough leak test must be performed to determine where the actual leak is located. Once this is determined, the leak can be permanently repaired. Just adding refrigerant to a system is not permitted as this does not fix the problem, and may lead to long term equipment failure and harm to the environment.

Certified technicians can use refrigerants existing in system while performing leak test, but cannot add refrigerants to leak test.

If no leak is found using an approved leak test protocol, refrigerant may be added.

If a leak is found, the technician must tell YOU, the customer. The owner of the vehicle or equipment is then obligated to get the leak repaired as soon as possible, as this will minimize potential damage to the equipment and the environment.

### DON'TS

The following practices are not permitted:

- Just "topping up" a leaking system
- The discharge of a regulated refrigerant (i.e. HCFC, HFC) into the environment is illegal
- Continuing to run without repairing the leak. Owners should be advised by the mechanic of the environmental impact of their leak, and know that they can damage their A/C unit by running it without a proper charge of refrigerant
- Adding a different refrigerant than the one already in the system, which can cause a potentially dangerous "chemical cocktail", which can also damage your system
- Adding refrigerants other than the factory-mandated ones into your A/C system

**Leak testing methods are specific, as prescribed by The Code of Practice (Environment Canada) and MOPIA.**

For details, visit [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca) or

<http://ec.gc.ca/ozone/default.asp?lang=En&n=E06A6B0D-1>