



Can't Top-Up Bulletin Issued

You can't just "top up" your air conditioner!

Air conditioning refrigerant leaks in any kind of equipment or systems are potentially harmful to the equipment and the environment. When a system is low on refrigerant, the cause is potentially from a small leak from a seal, hose or other source that needs to be identified and repaired permanently.

It is against the law to "Top-Up" refrigerant into an air conditioning system. Purchasing a drop-in refrigerant from a retailer may appear to be an easy fix, but A/C systems are designed to operate with specific refrigerants and cross mixing or "topping up" is illegal and potentially harmful to your equipment. Just adding refrigerant to an A/C system is not a permanent repair, and allows the continued release of regulated refrigerant gases to the atmosphere, which is also illegal and potentially harmful to human health and the environment. The A/C system's refrigerant must be properly recovered (not released) with specialized refrigerant recovery equipment before introducing any alternative refrigerant by a ODS certified service technician.

Certified service technicians are trained and responsible for the permanent leak repair of an air conditioning system. They will perform the proper leak test, recover the refrigerant and repair the leak before recharging your A/C system. They must record details of the leak including the use of regulated refrigerants. Ask to see a technician's "Manitoba ODS certification wallet card" and ensure it is valid (expiry date is specified).

Punishes for the wrongful release of refrigerants (or the improper recovery) are up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for persons on a first offence and \$500,000 for companies.

DO'S:

There is a proper and recognized air conditioning leak test procedure all must follow. Leak tests may use the following techniques:

- Electronic leak detection
- Halide flame leak detection
- Soap & bubble test
- Ultrasonic leak detection
- Fluorescent dye leak detection
- Standing vacuum test
- Standing Nitrogen test

Certified technicians can use refrigerants existing in system while performing a leak test, but cannot add any class 1, 2, or 3 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 equipment is then obligated to get the leak repaired, but can choose when and where this will happen. The owner must get the leak repaired before more refrigerant can be added.

DON'TS:

The following practices are not legal:

- Just "topping up" a leaking system
- The discharge of a regulated refrigerant into the environment
- Continuing to run without repairing the leak. Owners should be advised by the technician of the environmental impact of their leak, and know that they can damage their A/C unit by running it without a proper refrigerant charge
- Adding a different refrigerant than the one already in the system, which can cause a potentially dangerous chemical cocktail within your system
- CFCs must never be used in recharging an auto A/C system
- Importing regulated HFCs from the USA without proper certification or permit(s)
- Buying A/C parts or refrigerants over the internet without proper certification

Lauren Griffith-Parker
MOPIA Executive Assistant

Report improper A/C servicing to an Environment Officer with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Find an Environment Officer at:
www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/ece/contact

For the full regulation, visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/ods

This 2015 Bulletin courtesy of:

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MOPIA has created additional one-page Bulletins to assist industry, the public and our stakeholders to support compliance awareness on A/C servicing.

Our latest Bulletin includes the one seen above. It highlights you can-not top-up your air conditioner and the various reasons why. Even with an over the shelf, non-regulated refrigerant (i.e. hydrocarbon) unless the systems' regulated refrigerant was first recovered properly. This Bulletin is available for download at our website (www.mopia.ca).

MOPIA will continue to issue and make available Bulletins in an aim to clarify to those working with, servicing or using air conditioning the right from wrong good practices.

MOPIA Coming to Steinbach, Winkler/Morden, Portage and More...

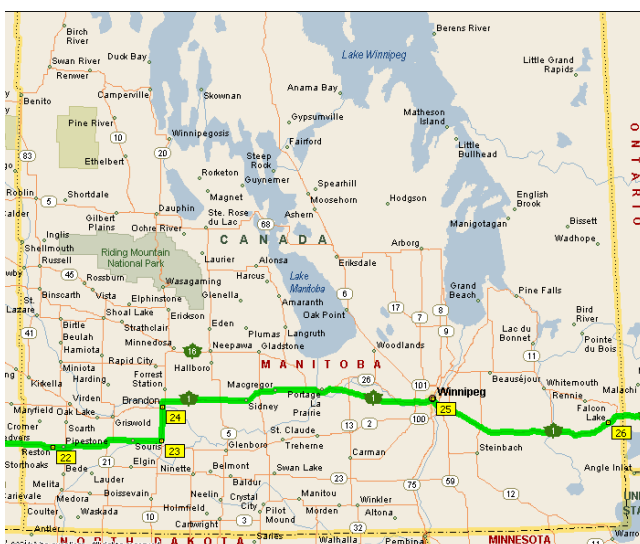
MOPIA is continuing to visit communities, towns and cities across Manitoba in June and July. All for the purpose of sharing the latest information with our stakeholders about new refrigerants, environmental data, regulatory controls on the horizon and info on the new provincial enforcement actions aimed to ensure the safety of Apprentices.

Plan to attend one of our free, lunch hour sessions to not only hear about the latest, but to share your concerns or issues you have experienced over the past while.

MOPIA will be in Steinbach on Tuesday, June 16. Following that session, we will be in:

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| • Winkler/Morden | June 17 | Days Inn |
| • Portage la Prairie | June 25 | Super 8 |
| • Dauphin | Date & Venue TBA | |
| • Winnipeg | Date & Venue TBA | |
| • The Pas | Date & Venue TBA | |
| • Thompson | Date & Venue TBA | |
| • Flin Flon | Date & Venue TBA | |

You should register for the session you want to attend to ensure we provide you details of the location and time, as well as, to ensure we order enough food. Just sent us an email with your name and any number of co-workers / persons who will be attending. Send to mopia@mymts.net





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Next Certification Training

MOPIA just held a certification training session at ACC in Brandon and is willing to host another session there or most other communities if we have 8 or more participants.

Our next one-day certification training class for **Winnipeg** will be held in June, either Thursday, June 25 or Saturday, June 27, depending on enrollment.

Also note, Westech Training Centre will be hosting 4 evening sessions on UNEP's Good Servicing Practices Phasing out HCFC's in July in Winnipeg. For cost and more details contact Brian Baker at: custom@customvac.ca

MPIs Position on the Use of Hydrocarbons & HFOs



**Manitoba
Public Insurance**

**Société d'assurance
publique du Manitoba**

MOPIA is often questioned by the public and also many in the auto A/C sector what Manitoba Public Insurance (MPIs) position is on the use of drop-in or replacement refrigerants such as hydrocarbons (examples include RedTek, Duracool and others) commonly sold at retailers from Princess Auto, Walmart, Canadian Tire, some Ag and other auto wholesalers and the new HFO 1234yf refrigerant.

MOPIA has approached MPI on several occasions to post a written statement or communicate on this important issue. As soon as a position statement is released, MOPIA will make it known through our E-Bulletin, website and other means. As for now, MOPIA cautions all consumers and the service industry that you should follow the air conditioning system manufacturers recommendations first. Secondly, adding an alternative or different refrigerant to a system that still contains a refrigerant is contrary to the Regulation, as this is called cocktailing or mixing refrigerants. This is also potentially damaging to recovery equipment that is not designed to process it. The system refrigerant needs to be recovered and properly fixed first, always!

Some hydrocarbon refrigerants have flammability potentials and as such, these must be handled carefully and may put service technicians at risk if the A/C system is not properly labelled (giving them knowledge of its characteristics).

See: www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Pages/default.aspx

HFC 134a on Way Out...??



There are several proposals coming before the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, including one from Canada, to phase-down and eventually eliminate the production of HFCs globally. There is a major push to eliminate or reduce their use as they are typically major contributors to climate change with global warming potentials much higher than their alternatives or new refrigerants emerging on the world stage, including HFOs, hydrocarbons, CO₂, ammonia and others.

Already, over 3 million vehicles in Canada and the USA have HFO 1234yf as their refrigerant. These include the Jeep Cherokee and various GM models on our roads today. Did you know the US has proposed a ban on new vehicle production with HFC 134a in A/C in 2021!

See more details on these proposals by visiting:
<http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/oewg/oewg-36/presession/SitePages/Home.aspx>

International Roundup

- Atmosphere America will be held June 25-26 in Atlanta, Georgia.
www.atmo.org/events/details.php?eventid=30

See related industry international news offered by UNEP's OzonAction in their OzoNews distributed free electronically.

www.unep.org/ozonaction/Home/tabid/5467/Default.aspx

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