

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
310 CMR 7.76: Prohibitions on Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons in
Refrigeration, Chillers, Aerosol Propellants, and Foam End-Uses
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Version 1.0 (October 2023)

The purpose of this document is to clarify and explain certain provisions of 310 CMR 7.76. Before reading this document, please review the regulation and other background information, available on MassDEP's web site via <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prohibitions-on-the-use-of-certain-hydrofluorocarbons-310-cmr-776>. If you have questions about 310 CMR 7.76, please email climate.strategies@mass.gov.

Q1 – Is the definition of chiller restricted to equipment that only provides cooling?

A1 – No, equipment that meets the definition of positive displacement chiller or centrifugal chiller and provides both heating and cooling is subject to the prohibitions listed in 310 CMR 7.76(6): *Table 1*. 310 CMR 7.76 defines chillers specifically as centrifugal and positive displacement chillers intended for comfort cooling of occupied spaces. The response to comment 37 in the [Response to Comments](#) document posted during the rulemaking process clarifies that the equipment end use categories used in the regulation are based on the end uses used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Significant New Alternatives Policy](#) (SNAP) program. Consequently, heat pumps categorized within the [Residential Light Commercial Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps](#) end use are not subject to the prohibitions for chillers included in the regulation.

Q2 – Do the prohibitions apply to products or equipment manufactured before the prohibition date?

A2 – No, products or equipment that were manufactured before the relevant prohibition date may still be sold, leased, rented, offered for sale, installed, or used in Massachusetts. The installation of new refrigeration equipment using prohibited substances after the date of prohibition is allowed if the relevant building permit was issued prior to the date of prohibition. Additionally, the prohibitions do not require anyone to cease use of existing products or equipment after the relevant prohibition date. For example, a supermarket that installed a refrigeration system that uses R-404A in 2015 did not need to stop using that system as of January 1, 2021.

Q3 – What do the numbers in parentheses in Table 1 mean?

A3 – Some of the substances listed in 310 CMR 7.76(6): *Table 1* are specific combinations of multiple types of refrigerants. These are denoted by placing a / between each type of refrigerant followed by a parenthetical identifying the relative quantity of each refrigerant in the blend. For example, R-125/134a/600a (28.1/70/1.9) means a refrigerant blend that is 28.1% R-125, 70% R-134a, and 1.9% R-600a.