

Rapid Recovery launches refrigerant credit initiative

Jonathan Zinck
HVACR Today

Rapid Recovery, a refrigerant recovery company that is based in Glendale, Ariz., recently announced a new program that will actually credit contractors for R-22 that the company recovers for them. As of this writing, that credit stands at \$1.04/lb gross weight for clean refrigerant.

There are some out-of-state companies that also purchase clean, recovered R-22, but an important distinction with Rapid Recovery is that the customer's refrigerant cylinders are serviced on the spot, with no need for shipping and no waiting for return of the cylinders. Refrigerant is also tested on-site. Only refrigerant that can be reclaimed will be credited, and this includes refrigerant that has been contaminated in the process of compressor motor burnout, according to David Wallace of Rapid Recovery.



Dave Wallace of Rapid Recovery recovers refrigerant from a chiller.

This means that in many cases, a contractor can actually make money by having Rapid Recovery deal with their refrigerant

recovery needs. There is a need to dispose (with documentation) of refrigerant that is not recycled back into the customer's unit,

and supply houses generally charge for this service. The contractor's cylinders can be tied up for days or weeks. For \$25 per 30lb or 50lb D.O.T. cylinder, Rapid Recovery services the cylinder, but then credits the contractor for R-22 (that passes a quick test) in the cylinders. While other programs offer payment on net weight after reclamation, Rapid Recovery's program pays on gross weight recovered. For example, a cylinder from which 40lbs of R-22 is recovered will cost \$25 for the service, but the contractor will be paid \$41.60 for the refrigerant, the net gain from that cylinder being \$16.60.

Rapid Recovery can show up on a job-site within 24 hours notice, according to Wallace, and for emergencies sometimes less notice is needed.

Buying back recovered refrigerant is a result of the steady increases in the price of R-22. Les Rhynard of Rapid Recovery said, "We want to ensure that our customers are

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SRP starts certified commercial contractor program

Katie McDevitt
HVACR Today

Good reliable help with broken or old air conditioners or heat pumps has been only a phone call away for SRP residential customers.

ning systems.

"We had great success with the residential program," said Jerry Thielen, SRP senior project manager. "We wanted to carry that over into the commercial sector."

Most of contractors that are involved in the commercial program are also part of the

zona Heat Pump Council and the ELA, hold a current contractor's license with no outstanding complaints with the Arizona Registrar of Contractors and the Better Business Bureau, be bonded and insured and must attend training classes on a regular basis. Also, contractors must adhere to the Heat

Thielen said the commercial program is already drawing some customers. He said that some local school districts are looking into doing some large equipment replacements and are considering using the contractors that are in the program. Also, some local mobile home parks have expressed

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benefiting from the changing R-22 market." The price per pound for certified and packaged R-22 has nearly doubled over the past 12 months. These prices will continue to spiral upward, with Jan. 1, 2010, being the date that manufacturers will no longer be able to produce new equipment that uses R-22. According to the Montreal Protocol, a 75% reduction in production and consumption of that refrigerant is mandated by that date. By the year 2020, R-22 will no longer be legally produced or imported into the United States. All R-22 available after January 1, 2020, will only be existing supplies and reclaimed refrigerant.

Rapid Recovery has offered a valuable service to contractors in the past in that they not only can recover the refrigerant on the site (eliminating the need in some cases for the contractor to use their own recovery equipment), but also can at the same time service cylinders and collect contaminated refrigerant for disposal. The company provides all-important documentation to keep contractors in compliance with EPA regulations. All of the company's technicians and recovery equipment are EPA certified. Their gas-powered recovery equipment is fast, and doesn't require that power even be available at the site.

Recovery has local offices in Glendale, Northern California, Southern California, Chicago and Baltimore, and franchise opportunities are available.