

Reclaim Survey: Where to Go, What it Costs

The following information is based on responses to an informal survey sent by *The NEWS* in September 2008 to companies listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the summer of 2008 as "EPA-Certified Refrigerant Reclaimers." Out of 51 companies on the list, 11 provided responses.

Of the remaining companies, some did not reply, some declined to reply, some were no longer in business, and some were part of consolidations or acquisitions.

The intent of this survey is to give readers a general idea as to how reclamation companies are responding to issues of most interest to contractors and technicians. *The NEWS* urges readers to do additional homework before deciding on what reclamation services to utilize. The listings are alphabetical.

AIRGAS REFRIGERANTS INC.

www.airgasrefrigerants.com

HOW TO GET REFRIGERANT TO RECLAIMER: Drop-off at wholesale supply houses or directly to reclaimer via common carrier. Company can provide containers, prepare shipping documents, and arrange for pickup.

COSTS: Depends on customized return programs. Most programs make volume and purity of refrigerant and usually create a profit center. Those that meet minimum shipping requirements incur no freight or cylinder charges. Small volumes through supply houses allow for consolidation of several cylinders. Cyl-

inder deposits, excitation fees, recertification fees on a cylinder may be charged depending on structure of return program that is customized to customer needs.

INCENTIVES: Buyback, banking, process and return (clean and exchange).

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: United States

ALLCOOL REFRIGERANT RECLAIM

www.allcool.com

HOW TO GET REFRIGERANT TO RECLAIMER: Pickup is via common carrier, contractor delivery to company, or wholesalers that use company's services. Pick up/delivery is free within 50 miles.

COSTS: Depends on quantity and shipping expenses. Contractors that trade-in less than 48 cylinders are charged a flat fee to obtain clean cylinders. There is an option to purchase their cleaned refrigerant back. Contractors that turn in 800 pounds or more pay a fee per pound to reclaim refrigerant. They get reclaimed refrigerant back and packaged per their requirements.

INCENTIVES: Incentives are to encourage contractors to not mix refrigerants. These incentives include higher charges to dispose of mixed refrigerants. If the refrigerant is reclaimable, it is offered at a buyback of less than one-half market value. The company also sells refillable cylinders at reduced rates. Company can credit and bank refrigerant. Company will also excite and return specific cylinders at customers request.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: United States

CERTIFIED REFRIGERANT SERVICES

www.certifiedrefrigerant.com

HOW TO GET REFRIGERANT TO RECLAIMER: Through participating wholesalers throughout Florida, a weekly route to contractor's business, or direct shipment.

COSTS: Return programs can be free if the customer does not want the refrigerant back. Generally, contractors pay a service charge per cylinder regardless of size (contact reclaimer for current charges). The charge covers two-way transport of cylinder, testing, and transfer of refrigerant.

INCENTIVES: Returned refrigerants placed in contractor's own bank for purchase as ARI-certified, offering a savings on quality refrigerants. Credits are offered if contractor does not want to bank refrigerant. Company may accept mixed R-22 at no charge. Company also has programs for R-410A and other ARI blends.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: United States

CONSOLIDATED REFRIGERANT RECLAIM

www.raprec.com

HOW TO GET REFRIGERANT TO RECLAIMER: Company provides reclamation services for the Rapid Recovery franchise network. Onsite recovery services provided. Recovered refrigerant is weighed, tested, and documented, from which credit is issued.

COSTS: Company charges for cylinder service and recovery labor, then credits the value of the refrigerant against those costs.

FOCUS REFRIGERANTS

Additional charges are possible for disposal of refrigerant that can't be reclaimed.

INCENTIVES: Buyback program based on gross refrigerant weight (without deductions for oil and other contaminants) at the time service is performed.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: Jobsite recovery and cylinder service with no travel costs in metro areas of Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San

Francisco, and Washington. Outside those areas, service is provided in lower 48 states at a fixed bid price including travel.

CONSOLIDATED REFRIGERANT SOLUTIONS

www.crsrefrigerants.com

HOW TO GET REFRIGERANT TO RECLAIMER:

The company comes to a contractor's shop to exchange and restock empty cylinders.

COSTS: There is no fee for the contractor to have a quantity of 250 lbs. (approx. 10 50-pound cylinders left).

INCENTIVES: The company tracks for their recovered refrigerant while eliminating the need for consolidation. Contractors recondition, cleaned, excite and return specific cylinders at customers request.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: United States