



Keeping cool with GECA

Refrigerants are vital for keeping us cool on sweltering days and for preventing our food from spoiling. Unfortunately, refrigerants have also significantly contributed to global warming and ozone depletion. While many ozone depleting substances have been phased out of use, a lot of the replacements still have a negative impact on global warming.

When a product is certified against Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA)'s Refrigerants standard, consumers can be sure that the product has been assessed to meet environmental, human health and ethical impact criteria. GECA certification removes doubt and confusion and makes identifying environmentally and socially preferable products easier.

Refrigerants covered by the standard include those used in domestic and industrial air conditioning systems, domestic and industrial refrigerators, and vehicle air conditioning systems.

Find GECA certified refrigerants on our **website**. If your preferred product is not listed, why not ask them to get certified.

Why buy GECA certified products?

Better for the environment and human health

- No ozone depleting substances
- Strict limits on the global warming potential of the product
- Packing must be easy to recycle or dispose of in an environmentally responsible way
- No chlorinated or halogenated packaging

Better for ethical considerations

- No unsubstantiated claims (greenwashing)
- Workers can expect fair pay, equal opportunity, and a safe working environment
- Sufficient product information must be provided to the consumer

www.geca.org.au



The GECA refrigerants standard

	Key criteria	Concerns	GECA Standard
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ozone depletion potential 	Many common compounds used in refrigerants are damaging to the ozone layer.	The ozone depletion potential must be equal to zero.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global warming potential 	Gases commonly found in some refrigerants trap significant amounts of heat, and/or persist in the atmosphere for a long time, contributing to global warming.	The refrigerant must have a global warming potential of less than 10.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packaging use and disposal 	Inefficient use of packaging results in greater transportation needs, natural resource depletion and increased burden on landfills.	Packaging must be easy to recycle by the user or subject to a take-back arrangement with the manufacturer.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of plastics in packaging 	Chlorinated and halogenated plastics pose a threat to human and environmental health when released into the air during incineration.	Packaging must not contain chlorinated or halogenated plastics.
Ethical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights 	Safe working conditions, fair and equal opportunities should be available to workers.	Requirements for workplace safety, fair pay and equal opportunity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product information 	Product information allows customers to use products in a responsible and sustainable manner.	Suitable information must be supplied with the product or made available to the public; for example, Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claims 	All claims must be true and substantiated - greenwashing is unacceptable	All environmental claims must be independently verifiable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal compliance 	Organisations must comply with required local and international laws and regulations.	Requirements for lawful conduct and environmental compliance.

For full list of criteria, refer to the **GECA Refrigerants Standard (Rv2.0-2015)**.

GECA runs Australia's only independent, not-for-profit, multi-sector ecolabelling program and is the only Australian member of the Global Ecolabelling Network. It develops standards against which products can be independently audited by GECA's JAS-ANZ accredited conformity assessment bodies. Its standards are developed following ISO14024 principles for global best practice in ecolabelling. More information is available at www.geca.org.au.

