

The Obligations of a Refrigeration Unit Holder

MAINTENANCE INSPECTION | As a refrigeration unit holder you are obligated by the law to have the refrigeration unit inspected on a regular basis. The inspection can only be done by a certified professional. The refrigeration mechanic has to have the refrigeration industry qualifications admitted by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency Tukes.

Possible leakage has to be repaired immediately. After that refrigeration unit has to be inspected within a month. Leak detectors have to be inspected every 12 months.

When it comes to refrigeration units, the legislation has changed. Today the refrigerant type is as relevant as the amount of added gas when it comes to how often the maintenance inspections have to be carried out. The more harmful the greenhouse gas to the global warming is, the more frequent the service intervals are. Global Warming Potential (GWP) is a relative value given to different types of gases.

Refrigerant	GWP	5 t CO ₂ -equiv. (kg)	50 t CO ₂ -equiv. (kg)	500 t CO ₂ -equiv. (kg)
R-134a	1430	3,50	34,96	349,65
R-404A	3922	1,27	12,75	127,49
R-407C	1774	2,82	28,18	281,85
R-410A	2088	2,39	23,95	239,46

Examples of refrigerants relative to maintenance inspection intervals

Refrigerants charge t CO ₂ -equiv. (kg)	Inspection Intervals *
5–50	12 months
50–500	6 months
> 500	3 months
*) The inspection interval can be twice as long if there is a leak detection system installed	

For example with 14 kg of R-404A refrigerant the inspection interval by the law is calculated as follows
14 kg * 0,001 * 3922 = 54,9 t CO₂-equiv. | Inspection interval = 6 months

MAINTENANCE | As a refrigeration unit holder you have to keep a maintenance and audit log. The log has to entail the following information concerning the refrigeration unit

- Refrigerant amount and type
- Amounts of added and recovered refrigerants
- Dates of inspections and completed procedures
- Name of the refrigerant mechanic and license number admitted by Tukes
- Signature and printed name

Maintenance and audit log must be shown upon request to the supervisory authority. Refrigeration unit holder must keep the records for five years. A maintenance sticker showing the date of the last inspection must be in close proximity of the unit. When the unit is disabled the refrigerant has to be recovered. This can only be done by a refrigerant company that is registered to the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency Tukes.