



## A2L Refrigerants: What You Need to Know

### WHO is affected?

If you're in the foodservice industry—whether you're a dealer, operator, designer, or technician—these changes apply to you. The EPA's AIM Act and ASHRAE standards are reshaping how refrigeration systems are built, installed, and serviced. Manufacturers like Everidge, are leading the way to ensure compliance and safety Every Step of the Way.

### WHY is this happening?

The EPA's AIM Act and the global Kigali Amendment are driving a phase-down of HFCs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A2L refrigerants offer a safer, more sustainable alternative that aligns with environmental goals without compromising performance.

### WHAT is changing?

By January 1, 2026, all newly installed commercial refrigeration systems must use low-GWP (Global Warming Potential) refrigerants. That means saying goodbye to older HFCs (A1) like R404A and R448A, and welcoming A2L refrigerants such as R454A, R454C, and R455A.

A2L refrigerants are part of a new generation of cooling solutions that are:

- Low in toxicity
- Mildly flammable
- Much better for the environment than older refrigerants

But what really sets them apart is their low GWP.

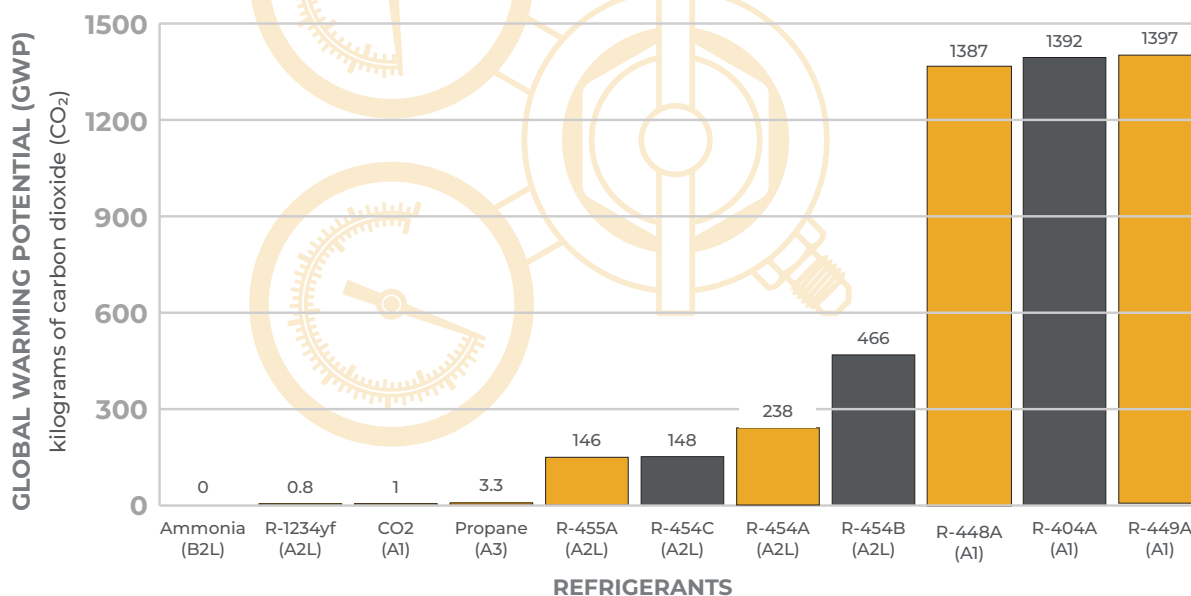
### What is GWP and Why Does It Matter?

GWP stands for Global Warming Potential. It's a way to measure how much heat a gas traps in the atmosphere compared to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The higher the number, the more it contributes to climate change.

- Older refrigerants (A1) like R404A and R448A have GWP ratings over 1,300.
- A2L refrigerants like R-454A, R-455A, and R-454C have GWP ratings under 300—a huge improvement.

This matters because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the AIM Act, is requiring a major shift to low-GWP refrigerants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.





## WHERE does this apply?

Anywhere commercial refrigeration is used:

- Walk-in coolers and freezers
- Remote condensing units
- Self-contained refrigeration systems

Whether it's a school, hotel, restaurant, or retail space—if you're installing new refrigeration after 2026, it must be A2L-compliant.



## Everidge Is Here to Help

We're not just adapting—we're leading. Our team is working closely with our refrigeration suppliers to ensure our systems are ready for the transition.

## HOW will this affect you?

### For Dealers:

- Expect updated product specs & labeling.
- Inventory will shift to A2L-ready systems starting late 2025.
- Retrofits of older systems may not be allowed unless they meet the new GWP limits.
- Safety components like leak sensors and ventilation systems will be standard.
- Training and awareness will be key—especially for handling mildly flammable refrigerants.
- Consult the manufacturer for recommended installation practices and potential refrigeration sizing requirements.

### For End Users:

- Some regions offer rebates or incentives for low-GWP systems.
- Existing systems can still be repaired or replaced, but new installs must meet A2L standards.

### For Designers & Consultants:

- Systems must comply with ASHRAE 15-2024, ASHRAE 34-2024, and UL 60335-2-89.
- All new A2L equipment must be equipped with leak detection sensors that automatically shut down the unit upon detecting a leak and must utilize electrical components rated for A2L refrigerants.



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