

Refrigerant Recovery

Daikin's Stance

Thorough Recovery during Production, Maintenance, and Upgrading

The fluorocarbons used as refrigerants in air conditioners have a global warming impact that is from several hundred to several thousand times more than CO₂, so these refrigerants contribute to global warming if they are released into the atmosphere.

As an air conditioner manufacturer handling such products, the Daikin Group considers it our responsibility to conduct research and development into refrigerants

with a low global warming potential as well as to prevent the release of refrigerants into the atmosphere during production and post-sales.

We recover refrigerants that are refilled during test operation and at other times at production bases worldwide. We also have destruction facilities in Japan and Thailand. During maintenance and upgrading of customers' air conditioners, the service or installation staff always start by thoroughly recovering the refrigerant.

Efforts in Japan

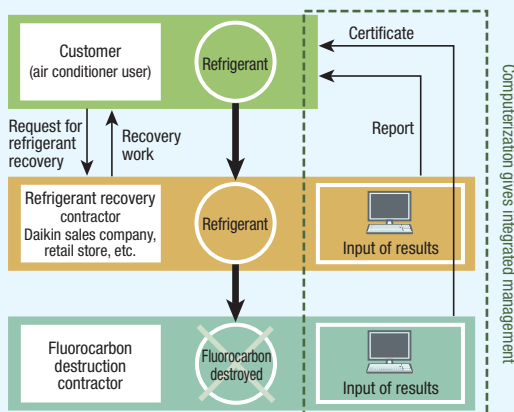
Refrigerant Recovery Network System

In Japan, we are thorough in our recovery of fluorocarbons (refrigerants) from commercial air conditioners. In September 2006, we created a network system for the integrated management of all information from recovery to destruction of refrigerants. By computerizing all previously written records, from amount of refrigerant recovered to amount destroyed, we have made it easier to accurately keep track.

The companies recovering and destroying the refrigerants add up the totals and these are reported annually to the prefectural governments in Japan. Because these reports can be generated from the system, these companies can work more efficiently.

Unified Management System of Refrigerant Recovery and Destruction

With each instance of refrigerant recovery, details such as the model of air conditioner and number of units, and the amount of refrigerant recovered, are entered into the electronic manifest. This makes it possible to get an accurate picture of the refrigerant recovery rate.



Recovery and Destruction 24 Hours a Day, 365 Days a Year

We take requests from retailers and other businesses for the proper recovery and destruction of refrigerants. The Daikin Contact Center takes calls all day, every day, and the recovered refrigerants are taken to our Kashima Plant or one of the contracted destruction facilities around Japan where they are properly destroyed.

In fiscal year 2008, 376 tons of fluorocarbons were destroyed.

Training for Refrigerant Recovery Personnel

The recovery of refrigerants requires special knowledge and skills. Daikin Industries provides the necessary training for the sales, technical, installation, and service staff who will be recovering refrigerants.

After one of these training programs, the technician training course, participants take a final test and if they pass are registered as refrigerant recovery technicians by the Refrigerants Recycling Promotion and Technology Center. In fiscal year 2008, 2,048 people, mostly from retailers and installers, passed the test. Of all those registered as refrigerant recovery technicians in Japan, 33.4% took the Daikin technician training course.



Training also provides environmental education

Received the Ozone Layer Protection and Global Warming Prevention Award

Daikin received the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize at the 11th Ozone Layer Protection and Global Warming Prevention Awards in September 2008 for its network for the unified management of information on fluorocarbon recovery and destruction.



Efforts Overseas

Training Personnel in Refrigerant Recovery and Establishing Recovery Equipment

At the Daikin Europe Academy (see page 34), training is held to teach the knowledge and skills needed to carry out refrigerant recovery. Course content is also in line with the EU regulations to prevent the release of refrigerants

into the atmosphere.

In China and other parts of Asia, all service bases have refrigerant recovery equipment. As we recover refrigerants, we remind customers how important this activity is to environmental protection, irrespective of the cost.