HVAC PROS — GUIDE

EPA Section 608 refrigerant rules for property owners

Check the technician credential separately from the business license before US refrigerant work.

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US EPA, Section 608 Technician Certification Requirements, fetched 2026-11-10 says technicians who maintain, service, repair or dispose of equipment that could release refrigerants into the atmosphere must be certified. The page says certification requires an EPA-approved test administered by an approved certifying organization. These are US requirements, not a description of Canadian law.

What work does EPA describe?

The EPA page includes attaching and detaching hoses and gauges to measure appliance pressure, adding or removing refrigerant, and other activities that can release refrigerant. It also describes a supervised-apprentice exemption. Ask the contractor who will perform the work and how the applicable credential or supervision requirement is met.

Do not treat this summary as permission to handle refrigerant yourself. Ask a qualified contractor to assess a cooling fault and describe the proposed work.

Match the credential to the equipment

The same EPA source lists these certification types:

| Type | Scope stated by EPA | | --- | --- | | Type I | Small appliances | | Type II | High- or very high-pressure appliances, except small appliances and motor vehicle air conditioners | | Type III | Low-pressure appliances | | Universal | All equipment types covered by these certification categories |

Ask for the technician's name, certification type and certifying organization. Ask the organization how to verify the record if the credential is unclear. Do not assume a company membership logo identifies the technician who will attend.

Does certification expire?

EPA's requirements page says Section 608 technician credentials do **not expire**. That does not establish a business license's status or the scope of a separate certification. Keep those checks separate.

The EPA certification overview, fetched 2026-11-10, says EPA does not issue certification cards. It directs people to certification requirements and approved organizations. If a contractor cannot produce a card, request verification through the issuing organization rather than assuming the EPA itself can replace it.

Questions before authorizing work

Ask what the technician found, which equipment is involved, what work is proposed and what the final quote covers. Ask for a service report. Check the contractor's business license separately with the relevant state or local agency. Payment for a directory listing does not verify either credential.

For work in Canada, check the relevant provincial authority and contractor requirements. A US Section 608 credential alone does not establish permission to perform regulated work at a Canadian property.

Frequently asked questions

Does Section 608 replace a contractor license?

No. Check the technician credential and the applicable business license separately.

Do Section 608 credentials expire?

EPA says Section 608 technician certification credentials do not expire. Check other credentials separately.