

LicenseMethod

EPA 608 Study Guide

Key rules, numbers and tables for Core and Types I, II and III,
with eCFR citations.

Core

Type I

Type II

Type III

Last checked October 20, 2026 against the eCFR (40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F and Part 84).

Not affiliated with the U.S. EPA. Certification requires a proctored exam from an EPA-approved certifying organization.

This guide is study material only and doesn't certify anyone. Rules change, so check the eCFR before relying on any detail.

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How the numbers are cited. "\$82.156(b)" means 40 CFR 82.156(b) in Subpart F. "Appendix D" is Appendix D to Subpart F, the test standards. Part 84 sections are AIM Act rules.

How to use this guide

This guide condenses License Method's four EPA 608 study guides into the rules, numbers and tables that show up on the exam. Each section ends with the numbers to memorize.

Citations in parentheses, such as (§82.156(b)), point to **40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F** in the eCFR unless they say otherwise. "Part 84" means the AIM Act rules in 40 CFR Part 84. Items marked **Field practice** come from EPA's test topics or normal shop practice, not regulation text.

The exam at a glance

Item	Rule
Sections	Core plus each type you want: Type I, Type II, Type III
Questions	25 per section. Universal is 100 (Appendix D)
Passing score	70%, which is 18 of 25 per section. Mail-in Type I: 84% (21 of 25)
Closed book	Required for Types II, III and Universal, with a proctor (Appendix D)
Universal	Pass Core, I, II and III. You can combine separate passing scores (Appendix D)
Mail-in Type I	Doesn't count toward Universal (Appendix D)
Time limit	Set by each certifying program, not by EPA
Expiration	None. EPA can revoke or suspend (§82.161(a)(3))
Results	Within 30 days of the exam (Appendix D)

A note on the AIM Act. Since January 1, 2026, HFC leak repair falls under the AIM Act. This is a separate rule from Section 608 (40 CFR 84.106). You need it on the job, but testing programs may not test it yet. AIM Act items in this guide are labeled, and our timed mock exam leaves them out.

A two-week plan

- **Days 1 to 3:** Core. Take a practice test cold, then study your weakest topics.
- **Days 4 to 5:** Type I. Recovery percentages and the small-appliance definition.
- **Days 6 to 9:** Type II. The evacuation table, leak repair and the refrigeration cycle.
- **Days 10 to 11:** Type III. Low-pressure basics, 25 mm Hg and the 85 °F rule.
- **Days 12 to 14:** Timed mixed tests. Retry everything you missed.

Core

Every certification requires Core. It covers what applies to all equipment: ozone and climate science, the laws, the venting ban, the three Rs, recovery, leak detection, safety, cylinders and shipping. (Appendix D)

Ozone and climate

- The **stratospheric ozone layer** absorbs UV-B. More UV-B means more skin cancer and cataracts, and damage to crops and aquatic life.
- **Chlorine** destroys ozone. CFCs and HCFCs drift up, UV breaks them apart, and each chlorine atom acts as a **catalyst** that can destroy thousands of ozone molecules.
- **ODP** is measured against **CFC-11 = 1.0**. **GWP** is measured against **CO₂ = 1**.

Family	Example	Ozone depletion	Notes
CFC	R-11, R-12, R-502	Highest	No hydrogen, so very stable
HCFC	R-22, R-123	Lower	Hydrogen makes it break down sooner
HFC	R-134a, R-410A, R-32	Zero	Many have high GWP, so they're regulated
HFO	R-1234yf, R-1234ze	Zero	Very low GWP

The laws

- **Montreal Protocol (1987)**: the treaty that phases out ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The Kigali Amendment added an HFC phasedown.
- **Clean Air Act, Title VI: §608** covers stationary refrigeration and AC. **§609** covers motor vehicle AC. **§612** is **SNAP**, the list of acceptable substitutes.
- **AIM Act (2020)**: phases U.S. HFC production and consumption down **85% by 2036** (Part 84).

Phaseout milestone	Date
CFC production and import end	Jan 1, 1996
R-22 only for equipment made before 2010	Jan 1, 2010
R-22 production and import end	Jan 1, 2020
All remaining HCFC production ends	2030

Existing R-22 systems can still use recovered or reclaimed R-22.

Venting and de minimis

- You may not **knowingly vent** refrigerant while servicing, repairing or **disposing** of an appliance. This covers **CFCs, HCFCs and non-exempt substitutes** such as HFCs and HFOs (§82.154(a)). Zero ODP doesn't make a refrigerant exempt.
- Releasing refrigerant **after you recover it** is also a violation (§82.154(a)(3)).
- **Exempt in any use**: CO₂, nitrogen and water. Some refrigerants are exempt only in listed end uses, such as R-600a and R-290 in household refrigerators (§82.154(a)(1)). **R-32 and R-454B are not exempt.**

- **De minimis:** small releases during a good-faith recovery are not violations, as long as you follow the required practices and use certified equipment. Connecting and disconnecting hoses is the typical example. Skipping recovery is never de minimis (§82.154(a)(2)).
- **Nitrogen:** releasing a dry-nitrogen holding charge after proper recovery is legal. Adding nitrogen to a charged system and venting the mix is a violation.

Check this one. An archived EPA fact sheet says nitrogen with a trace of HCFC-22, used as a leak-test gas, may be released after the system is evacuated. EPA's current venting page doesn't repeat that guidance. Confirm it with your certifying program. The safest practice is to leak test with nitrogen alone.

Pressure classes and key definitions

EPA classifies appliances by the refrigerant's **liquid-phase saturation pressure at 104 °F** (§82.152).

Class	At 104 °F	Examples	Certification
Low	below 45 psia	R-11, R-123, R-113, R-245fa	Type III
Medium	45 to 170 psia	R-12, R-134a, R-114, R-500	Type II
High	170 to 355 psia	R-22, R-410A, R-407C, R-502	Type II
Very high	above 355 psia, or critical temp below 104 °F	R-13, R-23, R-503, R-508B	Type II

- **Small appliance:** fully manufactured, charged and hermetically sealed in a factory with **5 lb or less** (§82.152).
- **Opening an appliance:** any service that would release refrigerant. Connecting hoses and gauges isn't "opening", but it is still certified work.
- **System-dependent** recovery uses the appliance's own compressor or pressure. It isn't allowed on systems over **15 lb**, except for a permanently attached pump-out unit (§82.156(e)).
- Recovery equipment made on or after **Nov 15, 1993** must be **certified** by an EPA-approved testing organization (§82.158).

The three Rs

Term	Meaning (§82.152)
Recover	Remove refrigerant in any condition and store it in an external container
Recycle	Clean it (oil separation, filter-driers) for reuse in equipment of the same owner
Reclaim	Reprocess it to AHRI 700 purity, verified by lab analysis, at an EPA-certified reclaimer

- Recovered refrigerant may go back into the **same appliance, or another owned by the same person**, without reclaiming (§82.156(h)).
- Used refrigerant sold to a **new owner** must be **reclaimed** (§82.154(d); §84.104(a) for HFCs).

Leak repair under Section 608 (ODS only)

Since 2020, §82.157 applies only to appliances with **50 lb or more** of a CFC or HCFC.

Equipment	Leak rate that triggers repair
Commercial refrigeration	20%
Industrial process refrigeration (IPR)	30%
Comfort cooling and others	10%

- Repair within **30 days**, or **120** if an IPR shutdown is needed.
- An appliance that leaks **125% or more** of its charge in a year is reported to EPA by **March 1** (§82.157(j)).
- A leak inspection has to **find where** the leak is. Pressure-decay tests and sight glasses show that a system leaks, not where.

Recovery, evacuation and leak testing

- **Never mix refrigerants** in one cylinder. Mixtures may have to be destroyed.
- **Field practice:** recover **liquid first**, with short, large-diameter hoses and the valve cores removed.
- Before opening a system, evacuate it to the required level and **verify** that level. Before an **oil change**, the system must be at **5 psig or lower** (§82.156(a)).
- **Dehydration:** after service, evacuate with a vacuum pump to remove **air and moisture**. Moisture forms acid, and air (a non-condensable) raises head pressure.
- **Leak test with dry nitrogen alone**, through a regulator and relief valve. **Never use oxygen or shop air.** Oxygen can explode with oil under pressure.
- **psia = psig + 14.7.**

Substitutes, oils and blends

- No true "drop-in" replacements exist. A retrofit may need new oil, seals or filter-driers.
- HFCs use **POE oil**. CFCs and HCFCs traditionally use **mineral or alkylbenzene oil**.
- **Zeotropic blends** (400 series) have **glide** and can **fractionate**, so charge them as **liquid**. **Azeotropes** (500 series) act like a single refrigerant.
- **A2L refrigerants** such as R-32 and R-454B are mildly flammable. Use equipment rated for them.

Safety, cylinders and shipping

- Refrigerant vapor is **heavier than air** and displaces oxygen. Ventilate enclosed and low spaces.
- High concentrations can cause **irregular heartbeat**. Liquid causes **frostbite**.
- A flame or hot surface decomposes refrigerant into toxic gases, including **phosgene** and acids.
- **PPE:** safety glasses and gloves at minimum. **SCBA** for a large leak in an enclosed space.
- **Recovery cylinders:** DOT-approved, **gray body and yellow top**, filled to **80% at most**. **Never refill disposable cylinders.** Never heat a cylinder with a flame.
- **Shipping:** label with the refrigerant name and DOT hazard class.

Certification, sales and records

- Anyone whose work could release refrigerant needs certification. Registered **apprentices** may work under close and continual supervision for up to **2 years** (§82.152, §82.161(a)(2)).
- Keep a copy of your certificate at your place of business until **3 years after** you stop working as a tech (§82.161(a)(4)).

- **Sales restriction:** refrigerant (including HFCs since **Jan 1, 2018**) may be sold only to certified techs or employers who show proof of one. Exception: car AC cans of **2 lb or less** with a self-sealing valve. Sellers keep invoices **3 years** (§82.154(c)).
- **Penalty:** up to **\$124,426 per day per violation** for penalties assessed on or after Jan 8, 2025 (40 CFR 19.4). It's adjusted yearly.

Core numbers

Item	Number
ODP / GWP reference	CFC-11 = 1.0 / CO ₂ = 1
CFC / R-22 / HCFC production end	1996 / 2020 / 2030
608 leak repair threshold	50 lb ODS
Leak rates: commercial / IPR / comfort	20% / 30% / 10%
Repair window	30 days (120 with IPR shutdown)
Chronic leaker report	125%+, by March 1
System-dependent recovery limit	15 lb
Oil change pressure	5 psig or less
Cylinder fill / records	80% / 3 years

Type I: small appliances

Type I covers **small appliances**: household refrigerators and freezers, window and room ACs, PTACs, dehumidifiers, ice makers, vending machines and water coolers (§82.161(a)(1)(i)).

Is it a small appliance?

It has to pass **both** tests (§82.152):

1. **Factory sealed.** A field-charged split system fails, whatever its charge.
2. **5 lb or less.** A factory-sealed cooler with 6 lb fails too. Both of these are Type II work.

People who **dispose of** small appliances, such as scrap-yard workers, don't need certification. They must still use certified equipment and meet the recovery levels.

Required recovery levels (§82.156(b))

Recovery equipment	Compressor works	Compressor doesn't work
Made before Nov 15, 1993	80%	80%
Made on or after Nov 15, 1993	90%	80%
Or, with any equipment	4 in. Hg vacuum	4 in. Hg vacuum

90% applies **only** with post-1993 equipment **and** a working compressor. Everything else is 80%, or a 4-inch vacuum.

Recovery equipment

- **Self-contained (active):** has its own compressor.
- **System-dependent (passive):** relies on the appliance's compressor or pressure. Allowed on every small appliance, since they're all 5 lb or less (§82.156(e)).
- Altering certified equipment in a way that affects performance makes it **uncertified** (§82.158).

Technique (Field practice, from EPA's test topics)

- **Working compressor with a passive device:** run the appliance's compressor.
- **Dead compressor:** install access valves on **both the high and low sides**.
- **Dead compressor with a passive device:** warm the compressor and **strike it** to free refrigerant from the oil.
- **Vacuum pump method:** use a non-pressurized recovery container, never a disposable cylinder.
- **Piercing (solderless) valves** tend to leak over time. **Remove them when service is finished.**
- **P/T check:** an idle unit at a known temperature should read close to its refrigerant's saturation pressure. Pressure well **above** the chart suggests **air**.

Disposal and the final processor (§82.155)

The **final processor** (scrap recycler or landfill) must either recover the remaining refrigerant or **verify** it was recovered:

- **Signed statement:** name and address of the person who recovered it, and the date.

- **Contract:** only for regular commercial suppliers.
- **No stickers.** "Leaked out" statements don't cover cut lines or negligence.
- Keep statements and contracts **3 years**.

Exempt refrigerants and hydrocarbons

- Exempt everywhere: **CO₂, nitrogen, water**. Exempt in listed household uses: **R-600a, R-441A, R-290** (§82.154(a)(1)). Exempt doesn't mean safe to release indoors.
- Hydrocarbon refrigerators are SNAP-listed for **new equipment only**. **No retrofits**. Their service ports are marked **red**.
- Small appliances fall under **neither** leak repair rule (50 lb ODS, 15 lb HFC).
- **Coming Jan 1, 2028:** used HFC disposable cylinders go for heel removal, or are evacuated to 15 in. Hg with a signed statement (§84.116).

Type I numbers

Item	Number
Small appliance	factory sealed, 5 lb or less
Pre-1993 equipment	80%
Post-1993, working / dead compressor	90% / 80%
Alternative	4 in. Hg vacuum
System-dependent limit	15 lb
Pass score, closed book / mail-in	70% / 84%
Final processor records	3 years

Type II: high pressure

Type II covers **medium-, high- and very high-pressure appliances**: split systems, rooftop units, walk-ins, supermarket racks and high-pressure chillers. Small appliances and motor vehicle AC are excluded (§82.161(a)(1)(ii)). Remember: **R-134a is medium pressure, and still Type II.**

Required evacuation levels (§82.156(a), Table 1)

Recover to these levels with **certified** equipment before opening or disposing of an appliance, and **verify** the level first.

Appliance	Equipment before Nov 15, 1993	On or after Nov 15, 1993
Very high pressure	0 in. Hg	0 in. Hg
High pressure, under 200 lb	0 in. Hg	0 in. Hg
High pressure, 200 lb or more	4 in. Hg	10 in. Hg
Medium pressure, under 200 lb	4 in. Hg	10 in. Hg
Medium pressure, 200 lb or more	4 in. Hg	15 in. Hg
Low pressure (Type III)	25 mm Hg absolute	25 mm Hg absolute

Changed. Older guides have separate "HCFC-22" rows, so an R-410A system under 200 lb shows 10 in. Hg. The current table groups all high-pressure appliances, so any high-pressure system under 200 lb goes to **0 in. Hg**. The old split survives only in §82.158 Table 2, which is the test standard for recovery machines.

- The column depends on **when the recovery machine was made**, not the appliance.
- After reaching the level, **wait a few minutes**. A pressure rise means refrigerant is still boiling out of liquid or oil.

Exceptions

1. **Non-major repair** with no evacuation afterward: open at **0 psig** or lower (§82.156(a)(1)(i)).
2. **Oil change: 5 psig or lower** (§82.156(a)(1)(iii)).
3. **Leaky appliance**: isolate the leaks. Take non-leaking parts to Table 1 levels and leaking parts as low as possible, **never above 0 psig** (§82.156(a)(2)).

A **major repair** removes the compressor, condenser, evaporator or an auxiliary coil, or uncovers an opening of **more than 4 sq in for more than 15 minutes** (§82.152).

Recovery technique

- **Liquid first.** On big systems, use **push-pull** from the liquid line or receiver, then switch to vapor.
- **Chill the recovery cylinder** or gently warm the system to widen the pressure difference.
- Use **short, large-diameter hoses** and remove the Schrader cores. All hoses need **low-loss fittings** (§82.158).
- Switching refrigerants: pump out and evacuate the machine, and change its filter-drier.
- Flammable (A2L/A3) refrigerants need recovery equipment certified for them (§82.158(d)(3)).

Leak detection

- Signs: **high superheat** (a starved evaporator) and **oil at joints**.
- Best test gas: **dry nitrogen alone**, through a regulator and relief valve, under the nameplate test pressure. A trace of R-22 works as a trace gas for electronic detectors.
- "Whether" methods (standing pressure, sight glass) must be combined with a "where" method: electronic, ultrasonic, bubbles, dye or gas imaging.

Leak repair: two programs

	Section 608 (§82.157)	AIM Act (Part 84, §84.106)
Refrigerants	ODS (CFCs, HCFCs such as R-22)	HFCs and substitutes with GWP above 53
Applies at	50 lb or more	15 lb or more
Effective	Jan 1, 2019 (current form)	Jan 1, 2026
Excluded	Substitute-only appliances	Residential and light commercial AC and heat pumps

The AIM Act column is a separate rule from Section 608 (40 CFR 84.106). You need it on the job, but testing programs may not test it yet.

Both use the same rates: **IPR 30%, commercial 20%, comfort 10%**. Old tests may still show 35/35/15, the numbers from before 2019.

- **Leak rate:** calculated every time refrigerant is added, with the same method for every appliance at a facility. *Annualizing:* add 10 lb to a 100-lb system 73 days after the last addition: $0.10 \div (73/365) = 50\%$. *Rolling average:* 24 lb added to a 200-lb system over a year = **12%**.
- **Repair** within **30 days** (120 for an IPR shutdown). A certified tech does the leak inspection.
- **Verification tests:** initial before adding refrigerant back, follow-up within **10 days**.
- **Parts extension:** capped at **180 days** (270 for IPR shutdowns).
- **Can't repair:** retrofit or retirement plan within **30 days**, finished within **1 year**. Requests for more time go in within **7 months**.
- **Chronic leaker:** 125% or more in a year, reported by **March 1**.
- **Automatic leak detection:** must detect **10 ppm** and alarm at **100 ppm**. Under the AIM Act, required on commercial refrigeration and IPR systems of **1,500 lb or more** (§84.108).

Pending. In May 2026, EPA proposed changes to §84.106 and said it will reconsider the rest of the 2024 rule. Study the current text until a final rule changes it.

Records

- The technician gives the owner documentation of the **amount and type of refrigerant** added or removed.
- **Disposal of appliances with more than 5 and less than 50 lb:** the tech records company, location, date and refrigerant type, monthly totals, and where it was sent (§82.156(a)(3)).
- Owner records are kept **3 years**. Full-charge records are kept until 3 years after the appliance is retired.

The refrigeration cycle

Location	Refrigerant state
Compressor discharge	High - pressure, superheated vapor
Condenser	Vapor condensing to liquid
Receiver and liquid line	High - pressure, subcooled liquid (best place to recover liquid)
Evaporator	Low - pressure liquid boiling to vapor
Suction line and accumulator	Low - pressure, superheated vapor

- An idle system reading **above** the PT chart at ambient temperature probably has **air**.
- **Evacuation:** use a micron gauge at the system. 500 microns is a common industry target (EPA sets none). **Never energize a compressor under deep vacuum.**

Safety and equipment transitions

- **ASHRAE 15:** equipment rooms need an **oxygen-deprivation sensor** (all refrigerants), detectors, alarms and ventilation.
- **A2L** = lower toxicity, lower flammability. Use A2L-rated tools, no ignition sources. Flammable cylinders carry a **red band**.
- **New residential and light commercial AC** from Jan 1, 2025 must use refrigerant with **GWP under 700**, such as R-454B or R-32 (§84.54). This is a separate rule from Section 608 (40 CFR 84.54). You need it on the job, but testing programs may not test it yet. R-410A systems whose components were all made or imported before 2025 can still be installed, with no end date (May 2026 final rule).

Type II numbers

Item	Number
High - pressure range at 104 °F	170 to 355 psia
Table split / equipment date	200 lb / Nov 15, 1993
Non - major repair / oil change	0 psig / 5 psig
Major repair opening	over 4 sq in for over 15 min
Leak repair applicability, ODS / HFC	50 lb / 15 lb
Rates, IPR / commercial / comfort	30% / 20% / 10%
Repair / follow - up test	30 days / 10 days
Parts extension cap	180 days (270 IPR)
Retrofit plan / completion	30 days / 1 year
ALD detect / alarm	10 ppm / 100 ppm

Type III: low pressure

Type III covers **low-pressure appliances**, which mostly means **centrifugal chillers** (§82.161(a)(1)(iii)). They use refrigerants **below 45 psia at 104 °F**: R-11, R-123, R-113, R-245fa. Newer low-GWP chillers use R-1233zd(E) and R-514A.

Most of a low-pressure system runs **below atmospheric pressure**, so leaks pull **air and moisture in**. That explains the purge unit, the leak-test limits and the freezing warnings.

Required evacuation level

Appliance	Any recovery equipment
Low pressure, any charge size	25 mm Hg absolute (about 29 in. Hg vacuum)

(§82.156(a), Table 1.) Older guides list 25 **inches** of Hg vacuum for older equipment and split chillers at 200 lb. The current table has a **single row**. Standard atmosphere is 760 mm Hg = 29.92 in. Hg = 14.7 psia.

Exceptions and the 85 °F rule

1. **Non-major repair**: pressurize to **0 psig** (atmospheric) before opening. Cover openings where the work can't be isolated (§82.156(a)(1)(ii)).
2. Refrigerant boils **at or below 85 °F** (R-11 about 75 °F, R-123 about 82 °F): **don't use nitrogen** or any method that requires purging.
3. Boils **above 85 °F** (R-113 about 118 °F): heat first, then nitrogen may finish the job.
4. Approved methods: **controlled hot water** in the tubes, or a built-in heating device such as a **Prevac**.
5. **Oil change: 5 psig or lower**. Field practice: heat the oil to about **130 °F** first so dissolved refrigerant boils out.
6. **Leaky chiller**: isolate it. Non-leaking parts go to 25 mm Hg, leaking parts as low as possible, never above 0 psig (§82.156(a)(2)).

Recovery

- **Liquid first, then vapor**. A large amount stays as vapor in the big shells.
- **Keep water flowing** in the evaporator and condenser tubes, or drain them, so they **don't freeze** and crack.
- Suspect a tube leak? **Drain the water side** before recovery.
- Low-pressure recovery units: high-pressure cut-out around **10 psig**. The recovery vessel's rupture disc relieves at **15 psig**.

Leak testing

- Pressurize with **hot water or a Prevac** first, nitrogen second.
- **Maximum leak-test pressure: 10 psig**. The evaporator **rupture disc opens at 15 psig** and is piped outdoors.
- A **hydrostatic tube test** finds leaks in the water tubes. A standing-vacuum test shows whether a system is tight but doesn't locate the leak.

Purge unit

Non-condensables collect at the **top of the condenser**. The purge unit removes them and returns the refrigerant. **Rising purge run time means a leak**. Purged refrigerant counts toward the leak rate unless it's destroyed at **98% efficiency or better** (§82.157(k)).

Recharging

- **Charge vapor first** until the saturation temperature is **above 32 °F**, then liquid. Liquid into a deep vacuum flashes and can freeze the tubes.
- Charge through the **evaporator charging valve**, the lowest access point. Keep water flowing.

Leak repair for chillers

Refrigerant	Rule	Applies at
R-11, R-123 (ODS)	§82.157	50 lb or more
R-245fa and other HFCs	AIM Act, §84.106 (since 2026)	15 lb or more
R-1233zd(E), R-514A (GWP 53 or less)	Neither	—

The AIM Act row is a separate rule from Section 608 (40 CFR 84.106). You need it on the job, but testing programs may not test it yet. Most building chillers are **comfort cooling: 10%**. The timelines match Type II.

Phaseouts and safety

- R-11 is a CFC; production ended in **1996**. R-123 is an HCFC; production ends in **2030**.
- **New comfort-cooling chillers** from 2025: **GWP under 700** (§84.54). That rules out R-134a for new comfort chillers.
- **R-123 is ASHRAE class B1** (higher toxicity). Equipment rooms need an oxygen-deprivation sensor and a refrigerant monitor for R-123 (ASHRAE 15).

Type III numbers

Item	Number
Low-pressure definition	below 45 psia at 104 °F
Evacuation	25 mm Hg absolute
Non-major repair	pressurize to 0 psig
85 °F rule	at or below: no nitrogen
Oil change	5 psig; heat oil to ~130 °F
Max leak-test pressure / rupture disc	10 psig / 15 psig
Charge vapor until saturation above	32 °F
Leak repair, ODS / HFC	50 lb / 15 lb
Comfort cooling rate	10%

Common traps

- **"HFCs have zero ODP, so they can be vented."** They can't. They're non-exempt substitutes.
- **"90% is the Type I rule."** Only with post-1993 equipment and a working compressor.
- **"A split system with 4 lb is a small appliance."** Not if it was field charged.
- **"R-410A under 200 lb needs 10 in. Hg."** That's the old table. It's now 0 in. Hg.
- **"Low pressure needs 25 inches of vacuum."** It's 25 mm Hg absolute now.
- **"608 leak repair covers my R-410A system."** It doesn't. §82.157 is ODS-only. Any HFC leak repair duty comes from the AIM Act (§84.106), and residential AC is excluded.
- **"Adding nitrogen makes it OK to vent."** It doesn't.
- **"R-22 is banned."** Only new production ended. Existing systems can use recovered or reclaimed R-22.
- **"A mail-in Type I counts toward Universal."** It doesn't.
- **"Use nitrogen to pressurize an R-123 chiller."** Not for a non-major repair. R-123 boils below 85 °F.
- **Mixing up the numbers.** 5 lb small appliance, 15 lb system-dependent limit and AIM leak repair, 50 lb for §608 ODS leak repair, 200 lb evacuation table split.

Sources

All checked 2026-10-20.

- 40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F (§§82.150–82.169, Appendix D): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-82/subpart-F>
- 40 CFR Part 84 (AIM Act: §§84.54, 84.104, 84.106, 84.108, 84.112, 84.116): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-84>
- 40 CFR 19.4 (civil penalty inflation adjustments): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/section-19.4>
- EPA, Section 608 Technician Certification Requirements: <https://www.epa.gov/section608/section-608-technician-certification-requirements>
- EPA, Section 608 Technician Certification Test Topics: <https://www.epa.gov/section608/section-608-technician-certification-test-topics>
- EPA, Certification Programs for Section 608 Technicians: <https://www.epa.gov/section608/section-608-technician-certification-programs>

Rules change. Check the eCFR for the current text before relying on any detail.

Ready to practice?

Take the free Core practice test at [licensemethod.com](https://www.licensemethod.com). It works in your phone's browser and needs no signup.