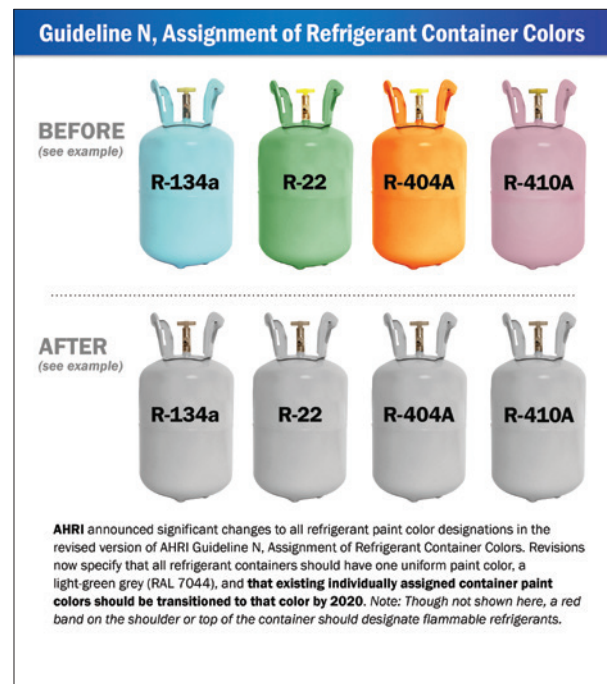


AHRI Guideline N Update Removes Paint Color Assignments for Refrigerant Containers

Revisions to the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) Guideline N, *Assignment of Refrigerant Container Colors*, now specify that all refrigerant containers should have one uniform paint color, a light-green/grey (RAL 7044), and that existing individually assigned container paint colors should be transitioned to the new standard color by 2020. Guideline N previously stipulated that specific paint colors be used for refrigerant containers as an additional means of refrigerant identification. However, with the increasing number of refrigerants approved for use, there was concern over the potential misidentification of similarly colored containers. In fact, more than half of respondents to an AHRI survey of refrigerant handlers found that container colors had already caused confusion. This confusion would likely increase as new refrigerants are added to the market.

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49 for hazmat transportation regulations, and CFR Title 29 for occupational safety and health regulations, require that all hazardous material containers, including refrigerant cylinders and drums, be properly labeled to clearly identify the contents. These container labels and markings should always be used as the primary means to identify the type of refrigerant in a container. While AHRI guidelines serve as recommendations



for industry and are not required by law, most industry members use Guideline N, and all refrigerant users should be aware that the label will now serve as the primary means of positively identifying the type of refrigerant in a cylinder or drum. Flammable refrigerants must continue to include a red band on the top of the container.