

# EPA Refrigerant Leak Repair - Student Quick Chart

Klein Cooling HVAC Training Program | October 2026

## 1. Memorize: 10 - 20 - 30

| Equipment type                   | Annual leak-rate trigger |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Comfort cooling                  | 10%                      |
| Commercial refrigeration         | 20%                      |
| Industrial process refrigeration | 30%                      |

These are annualized leak-rate thresholds, not the percentage lost during one service call.

## 2. Traditional Section 608 (ozone-depleting refrigerants, e.g., R-22)

| Rule                                  | Requirement                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charge threshold                      | 50 lb or more                                                 |
| Repair deadline                       | 30 days after discovery of threshold-exceeding leak           |
| Industrial process shutdown exception | 120 days when shutdown is required                            |
| Initial verification                  | After repair, before adding refrigerant (when applicable)     |
| Follow-up verification                | Within 30 days after returning to normal operating conditions |
| Retrofit/retirement                   | Generally within 1 year, subject to exceptions                |

## 3. Periodic inspections after exceeding leak-rate threshold (Section 608)

| Equipment / charge                     | Inspection frequency   |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Commercial or industrial: 50 to 500 lb | Once per calendar year |
| Commercial or industrial: over 500 lb  | Every 3 months         |
| Comfort cooling: 50 lb or more         | Once per calendar year |

Periodic inspections continue until the system meets the applicable below-threshold criteria. Exceptions may apply, including automatic leak detection.

## 4. Separate 2026 AIM Act HFC rules - do not mix with traditional exam numbers

| Rule                                | 2026 HFC requirements (covered equipment)                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charge threshold                    | 15 lb or more; refrigerant GWP above 53                                                          |
| Annual triggers                     | 10% comfort / 20% commercial / 30% industrial                                                    |
| Repair deadline                     | Generally 30 days; qualifying industrial shutdown: 120 days                                      |
| Follow-up verification              | Generally within 10 days of successful initial test or return to normal operation, as applicable |
| Commercial / industrial inspections | 15 to under 500 lb: annual; 500 lb or more: every 3 months                                       |

AIM Act exclusions include residential and light-commercial air conditioning and heat pumps. Applicability depends on equipment and refrigerant.

## EXAM MEMORY LINE

Traditional Section 608: 50 lb | 10 / 20 / 30% | 30 days | 120 days | 500 lb breakpoint.

Official references: [epa.gov/section608/stationary-refrigeration-leak-repair-requirements](https://www.epa.gov/section608/stationary-refrigeration-leak-repair-requirements) | [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) (AIM Act Emissions Reduction and Reclamation leak repair fact sheet, Jan. 2026). For field compliance, check current EPA rules and exceptions.