



REGULATORY UPDATE • REFRIGERATION COMPLIANCE

EPA Finalizes Targeted Relief from the HFC Technology Transitions Rule

Final rule published **May 26, 2026** | Effective **July 27, 2026** | Implementing the AIM Act of 2020

Key Takeaways

WHAT HAPPENED?

On May 26, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule revising several requirements under the 2023 Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Technology Transitions Rule (TTR), which implements subsection (i) of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (AIM Act), 42 U.S.C. § 7675(i). Announced as part of EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's broader deregulatory initiative, the revisions follow petitions for reconsideration and judicial challenges filed by several industry groups. EPA largely finalized the relief it proposed in October 2025 — including extended compliance dates and relaxed interim global warming potential (GWP) limits for certain subsectors — though it did not provide relief for all regulated industries. The rule becomes effective **July 27, 2026**.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, installers, owners, and users of: refrigerated transport intermodal containers; semiconductor manufacturing equipment; retail food refrigeration systems; cold storage warehouses; refrigerated laboratory centrifuges and shakers; industrial process refrigeration (IPR); and residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pump (AC/HP) systems.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Affected stakeholders should review whether their activities are subject to the revised compliance dates, interim GWP limits, or installation flexibility outlined below.

Key Elements of the Final Rule

EPA finalized many elements of the proposed rule and added provisions based on comments received, including expanding cooling capacity in supermarket systems without triggering requirements to install new systems.

Chillers & Industrial Process Refrigeration in Semiconductor Manufacturing

EPA extended the 2023 TTR compliance deadlines for IPR chillers with charge sizes of 100 pounds or less used in semiconductor manufacturing. Deadlines of January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2028 (as applicable) were extended to **January 1, 2030**. This resolves the legal challenge and administrative petition for reconsideration brought by SEMI, the global trade association for the semiconductor supply chain. EPA also clarified that the lowest temperature at which equipment is designed to operate determines whether it is subject to use restrictions.

Retail Food Refrigeration — Remote Condensing Units & Supermarket Systems

Responding to retailer concerns about substitute availability and unreasonable costs, EPA finalized a graduated schedule of interim GWP limits based on charge size and system type. Remote condensing units face an interim GWP limit of **1,400** effective July 27, 2026; supermarket systems face the same limit effective January 1, 2027. In both cases, the TTR's original limits of 150 or 300 (depending on charge size and configuration) resume on January 1, 2032.

NEW: 15% COOLING-CAPACITY FLEXIBILITY FOR REMODELS

EPA will allow supermarket systems to increase cooling capacity (BTU/hr) by up to **15%** versus the originally installed capacity without being treated as a new-system installation under 40 C.F.R. § 84.54(e). This permits routine store refreshes, remodels, and layout changes. The 15% limit applies across the life of the system — any number of remodels is allowed so long as aggregate changes stay within 15% of the originally installed capacity. EPA clarified that increasing refrigeration load (e.g., adding cases where cooling capacity already exists) does not necessarily expand cooling capacity.

Refrigerated Transport — Intermodal Containers

EPA raised the lower-bound temperature exclusion threshold for intermodal containers from $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to **$-35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$** , measured inside the container ("box temperature"). EPA concluded relief is appropriate because no currently available alternative meets the $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ threshold, and box temperature is the more common industry measurement. Because the lowest design operating temperature governs applicability, a container designed to reach a box temperature below $-35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ would not be subject to restrictions even if at times operated above $-35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Residential & Light Commercial AC/HP Systems

EPA removed the installation deadline for residential and light commercial AC/HP systems, provided all specified components were domestically manufactured or imported before January 1, 2025. EPA expects this to avoid the costs of stranded inventory in the subsector.

Other Elements of the Final Rule

Cold Storage Warehouses

Alongside the graduated schedule for remote condensing units and supermarket systems, EPA finalized an interim GWP limit of **700** for cold storage warehouses, effective July 27, 2026 through January 1, 2032. Thereafter, limits of 150 or 300 apply depending on charge size and configuration. EPA's decision relies on information regarding the availability of substitutes.

Industrial Process Refrigeration in Certain Laboratory Equipment

EPA extended the compliance date for refrigerated laboratory centrifuges and shakers from January 1, 2026 to **January 1, 2028**, again clarifying that the lowest design operating temperature determines whether equipment is subject to use restrictions.

Compliance Dates at a Glance

Subsector / Equipment	Key Change	Date
Final rule effective date	Rule takes effect	Jul 27, 2026
Semiconductor IPR chillers (≤100 lb charge)	Deadline extended to	Jan 1, 2030
Remote condensing units	Interim GWP limit 1,400	Jul 27, 2026
Supermarket systems	Interim GWP limit 1,400	Jan 1, 2027
Retail food (both above)	Original GWP 150/300 resumes	Jan 1, 2032
Cold storage warehouses	Interim GWP limit 700	Jul 27, 2026 – Jan 1, 2032
Refrigerated lab centrifuges & shakers	Deadline extended to	Jan 1, 2028
Intermodal containers	Exclusion threshold → -35 °C box temp	Effective with rule
Residential / light commercial AC/HP	Install deadline removed (pre-2025 components)	No deadline

About this summary. This document is provided by American Walk In Coolers as a plain-language overview of EPA's May 26, 2026 final rule revising the 2023 HFC Technology Transitions Rule under the AIM Act. It is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or compliance advice. Applicability depends on your specific equipment, charge sizes, and operating conditions — review the final rule and consult qualified counsel before making compliance decisions.