



MEDIA RELEASE

7 July 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT COMMENCES ON IMPORTANT REFRIGERATION STANDARDS

- Proposed adoption of international standards for refrigeration systems
- Comment sought from industry and the public on this significant proposed change
- The proposed text of these international standards are available for viewing, at no cost, until 1 September 2015

Standards Australia has released for public comment five proposed new Australian/New Zealand Standards for refrigeration systems and refrigerants, AS/NZS ISO 817:2015, *Refrigerants – Designation and safety classification*, and AS/NZS 5149, *Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements, Parts 1 to 4*.

The five proposed new Australian/New Zealand Standards are based on international standards published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 2014. It is proposed for these new standards to supersede the current Australian and New Zealand Standards for refrigerating systems, AS/NZS 1677 Parts 1 and 2, which were published in 1998.

The five standards were developed by Standards Australia Technical Committee ME-006, *Refrigeration*, which comprises representatives from the refrigeration industry, retailers, government, fire and emergency services and public health and safety officials.

The key proposed changes include a revised, internationally-aligned system of refrigerant designation and safety classification, as well as an extended scope to not only include safety requirements, but also the environmental aspects of system construction, leak prevention, vibration, maintenance, log books, repair and recovery of refrigerant.

Mr Phil Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Airconditioning and Heating (AIRAH), said: "The proposed new standards will mean a big change for Industry in both Australia and New Zealand. AIRAH originally proposed this work to update the Australian Standards and we are very pleased that the technical committee has been able to play an influential role in shaping the International Standards and adopting them for Australia and New Zealand."

Dr Bronwyn Evans, CEO of Standards Australia, said the technical committee ME-006 is seeking broad-based feedback from the many communities who use, service and design equipment built to Australian refrigeration standards.

“Throughout this process, we have been very conscious of the need to ensure that the public comment process is accessible to all. We have worked with ISO to make the International Standards available through public comment. We look forward to hearing your views between now and September.”

The public comment period commences 30 June 2015 and will conclude on 1 September 2015.

A summary of the proposed changes may be found at the [Appendix](#).

All draft Standards are available for review and comment through this link:

<https://sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action>

APPENDIX

It is proposed for AS/NZS 1677 Parts 1 and 2 to be replaced as follows:

AS/NZS 1677.1 <i>Refrigerating systems, Part 1: Refrigerant classification</i>	To be replaced by AS/NZS ISO 817:2015, <i>Refrigerants – Designation and safety classification</i> - A direct text adoption without modifications of ISO 817
AS/NZS 1677.2 <i>Refrigerating systems, Part 2: Safety requirements for fixed applications</i>	To be replaced by four standards, which are - Modified adoptions of ISO 5149, <i>Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements Parts 1, 3 and 4</i> - Direct adoption without modifications of ISO 5149 Part 2 - The series will be designated as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o AS/NZS 5149.1: 2015 (Mod), <i>Part 1: Definitions, classifications and selection criteria</i>o AS/NZS 5149.2: 2015, <i>Part 2: Design, construction, testing, marking and documentation</i>o AS/NZS 5149.3: 2015 (Mod), <i>Part 3: Installation site</i>o AS/NZS 5149.4: 2015 (Mod), <i>Part 4: Operation, maintenance, repair and recovery</i>

Summary of revisions to content

AS/NZS ISO 817: 2015, *Refrigerants – Designation and safety classification*

- The title and scope has been extended to include a designation system as well as safety classification for refrigerants.
- A new flammability class of 2L has been introduced which is commonly termed 'mildly flammable'.
- R32 which is currently a safety class of A2 has been reclassified as A2L (non-toxic, mildly flammable) recognising its lower flammability and difficulty of ignition. Ammonia (R717) has also been reclassified from B2 to B2L (toxic, mildly flammable).
- The new standard lists over 100 refrigerants and their safety properties compared to only 66 listed in AS/NZS 1677.1.

AS/NZS 5149, *Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements, Parts 1 to 4*

- AS/NZS 5149 Parts 1 to 4 are to replace AS/NZS 1677.2. In addition to safety, they also cover the environmental aspects of system construction, leak prevention, vibration, maintenance, log books, repair and recovery of refrigerant.
- The scope of AS 1677.2 only dealt with safety, and could sometimes be at odds with the requirements of the Refrigerant Handling Codes of Practice. The new standards addresses these issues and also covers CO2 cascades and CO2 transcritical systems in supermarkets which were previously not covered by AS/NZS 1677.2
- AS/NZS 5149 Parts 1 to 4 will provide worked examples on how to determine a refrigeration systems safety classification and its refrigerant charge limits.

About Standards Australia

Founded in 1922, Standards Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, recognised by the Commonwealth Government as the peak non-government Standards development body in Australia. It is charged by the Commonwealth Government to meet Australia's need for contemporary, internationally-aligned Standards and related services. The work of Standards Australia enhances the nation's economic efficiency, international competitiveness and contributes to community demand for a safe and sustainable environment. Visit <http://www.standards.org.au>

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