

THE REFRIGERANT TRANSITION IS COMING

Are You Ready?

Everything you need to know about the R290 refrigerant transition before the 2027 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regulations take effect.

The Industry Is Changing

Commercial refrigeration technology is entering a new phase as environmental regulations reshape how equipment is designed and manufactured. To reduce the environmental impact of refrigeration systems, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has introduced regulations that phase down the use of certain high-GWP refrigerants commonly used in commercial equipment.¹

In response, many manufacturers are transitioning refrigeration systems to R290 (propane) — a natural refrigerant that delivers efficient performance with significantly lower environmental impact.² For foodservice dealers and operators, this shift will influence equipment specifications, service considerations, and future equipment purchasing decisions.



What Is R290?

R290 is propane used as a refrigerant. It is a natural hydrocarbon refrigerant that delivers strong thermodynamic performance while dramatically reducing environmental impact compared to many legacy refrigerants.²

	R290	Traditional Refrigerants
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	~3 ²	Up to 1400 ⁺²
Energy Efficiency	High	Moderate
Environmental Impact	Very Low	Higher

Because of these advantages, R290 is quickly becoming the preferred refrigerant for commercial foodservice refrigeration equipment.

Why You Should Pay Attention Now?

The refrigerant transition will impact equipment specifications, sales conversations, and service knowledge across the industry.

Those who prepare early will be better positioned to:

- ✓ Guide operators through equipment decisions
- ✓ Understand evolving product specifications
- ✓ Support installation and service requirements
- ✓ Avoid disruption when legacy refrigerants phase out

Staying informed today helps ensure your customers remain compliant and operational tomorrow.

Helping Operators Understand the Transition

As operators begin hearing about refrigerant changes, you can help provide clarity and confidence. Key points to communicate include:



Lower Environmental Impact

R290 has extremely low global warming potential compared to many legacy refrigerants.²



Efficient Cooling Performance

R290 systems offer strong thermodynamic efficiency and reliable cooling.



Industry-Wide Adoption

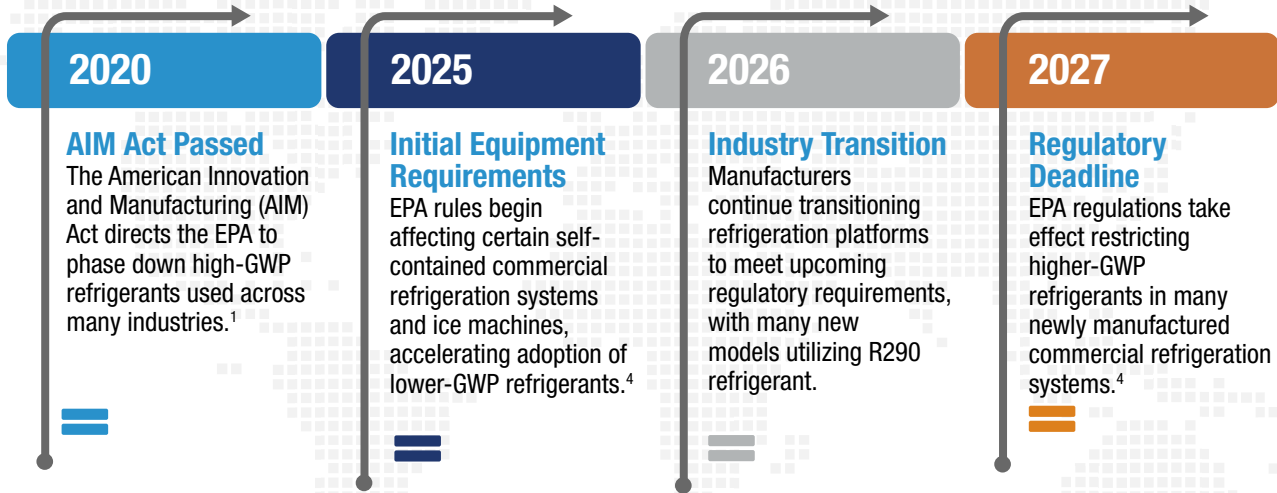
Leading manufacturers are transitioning equipment platforms ahead of regulatory deadlines.



Designed for Commercial Kitchens

Modern R290 systems are engineered with built-in safety features and must meet strict safety standards.³

Foodservice Refrigerant Transition Timeline:



Existing refrigeration equipment can continue to operate and be serviced. The transition affects newly manufactured equipment.

Safety & Engineering Considerations

R290 is classified as a hydrocarbon refrigerant (A3 – mildly flammable) and cannot be air shipped.³ Modern commercial refrigeration equipment is specifically engineered to safely operate with R290.

Typical design considerations include:

- Factory-sealed refrigeration systems
- Small refrigerant charge limits
- Compliance with UL safety standards
- Engineered airflow and ventilation considerations
- Manufacturer-tested system designs

R290 equipment is already widely used across commercial refrigeration applications around the world.

Where You'll See R290?

Many of the manufacturers represented by Don Stevens have already begun transitioning equipment platforms to R290 refrigerant.

Our team works closely with leading refrigeration manufacturers to stay ahead of product developments and ensure dealers have access to equipment designed for the evolving refrigeration landscape.



The Transition Is Already Happening. Are You Ready?

The refrigerant transition is already impacting equipment, availability, and planning timelines. Our team is here to help you navigate what's changing—and what to do next.

Explore the Refrigerant Ready 2027 Resource Hub

Visit the Don Stevens online resource center for additional information and tools including:

- Refrigerant Transition FAQ Guide
- Refrigerant Checklists
- Regulatory Insights & Updates
- Refrigerant Sales Resources
- Equipment Planning Guidance
- & More!



Disclaimer: Regulatory timelines and requirements referenced in this document are based on publicly available information at the time of publication and may be subject to change. Equipment specifications and compliance requirements may vary by manufacturer and equipment model. This document is provided for general informational purposes only.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction>; ² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Refrigerant Global Warming Potential (GWP) Information. <https://www.epa.gov/snap>; ³ American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), ASHRAE Standard 34 – Refrigerant Safety Classification; ⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Technology Transitions Rule for Commercial Refrigeration Equipment. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/technology-transitions>

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