

Safety Notice to all Star Cool Service Providers

As more information has become available in relation to the issue of counterfeit and contaminated refrigerant, we would like to provide the following update and recommendations.

It is now widely concluded that contamination of refrigeration systems has been as a result of the addition of a counterfeit refrigerant using a blend of chemicals including R40 (methyl chloride). The methyl chloride will react with aluminium to form trimethylaluminium (TMA), a pyrophoric substance. All hermetic and semi-hermetic compressors use aluminium in their internal construction and are therefore exposed to risk if contaminated with R40.

Work continues in an effort to develop a safe and accurate method of testing suspect machines for both R40 and TMA presence, but until such a test is available we continue to recommend quarantine of any units suspected to be contaminated.

To prevent further occurrences of unit contamination and the associated hazards, it is extremely important that all stocks of R134a are verified as containing no R40, and that all purchases of R134a are verified and certified to be from reliable and genuine sources.

While there are several electronic refrigerant analyzers on the market which are designed to verify the purity of R134a, the manufacturers confirm that **none of the analyzers commercially available today are able to detect R40 and may report contaminated refrigerant as pure**. These electronic analyzers cannot be relied upon or provide any safety in relation to the integrity of the refrigerant.

The only practical method to ensure that R134a being added during service repairs is free from R40 and any other chemical containing chlorine, is to use a halide lamp to test each cylinder. This procedure has been distributed to certain repair vendors by Maersk Line, but we now include the bulletin distribution to our Service Providers and customers.

We strongly recommend the following steps are taken for your entire inventory of R134a as well as future purchases:

Each cylinder is to be tested using a halide torch leak detector and the details of supplier, delivery date, test date, cylinder serial number and result is to be recorded in a log book and the cylinder tagged clearly with the same information.

If a refillable cylinder is used, the cylinder must be retested after each refill.

No R134a is to be used for any Star Cool warranty repairs unless the test procedure, or any updated procedure has been completed and recorded. Further information regarding compliance and reporting to this requirement will be forthcoming.

Further updates will be distributed as information becomes available.

Regards,
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