The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers certifications to individuals that work in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) field. HVAC technicians must have EPA certifications to handle any equipment that may leak a chemical compound called refrigerant, which damages the air and causes harm to the environment and anyone who breathes in the polluted air. EPA certifications involve teaching individuals safe practices for handling equipment that contains refrigerant, how to react if they come into contact with refrigerant and the potential hazards of releasing refrigerant into the air. They also learn how to handle, service and dispose of appliances that have refrigerants. The EPA mandates that all HVAC technicians must have certification to perform the following tasks:

- Handle hoses that measure the pressure inside of an appliance
- Add or remove refrigerant from an appliance using specialized tools
- Any activities that change the composition or operation of an HVAC equipment and appliances

Refrigerant classification

The ISO 817 and ANSI / ASHRAE 34 standards are safety classifications for refrigerants.

The toxicity rating is divided into two groups, Low Toxicity A and Low Toxicity B.

The flammability of a refrigerant is divided into four categories according to these standards, with Class 1 being virtually incombustible under most conditions of use. R 410A and R 22 both in Class 1 are considered virtually non-combustible.

Class 2L (L = low) is considered to be low flammability, classified as having low combustion rate and having lower heat of combustion. Class 2 and Class 3 designate flammable and highly flammable refrigerants. R 152a is a class 2 refrigerant, while the hydrocarbons (propane, butane) are classified as highly flammable class 3 refrigerants.