

What is Refrigerated Airconditioning work?

A guide to read before you apply for registration

Do you have the **skills, knowledge** and **experience** to apply for registration as a plumbing practitioner in the **specialised** class of Refrigerated Airconditioning work? To help you, this guide explains some of the typical tasks of Refrigerated Airconditioning work. If you are asked to an assessment interview, some of your interview questions will be based on this information.

Get to know the regulation

Under Part 8 of the Plumbing Regulations 2008, Refrigerated Airconditioning work is:

(1) the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of refrigerated airconditioning equipment, including –

(a) the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of –

(i) flexible ductwork, associated with the heating and cooling of a building; and

(ii) roof sheeting and flashing that is necessary for the purpose of any work described in this subregulation; and

(b) any design work that is incidental to, or associated with, any work described in this subregulation.

(2) Refrigerated Airconditioning work does not include –

(a) the connection or disconnection of refrigerated airconditioning equipment from a water supply other than the disconnection of that equipment from a water supply at an isolating valve adjacent to a mechanical component of that equipment; or

(b) the treatment of cooling water; or

(c) the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of a single head split system.

Typical Refrigerated Airconditioning work

Refrigerated Airconditioning work is conducted in domestic, commercial and industrial environments, to provide desired heating and cooling requirements. Experienced Refrigerated Airconditioning plumbers typically do the following work:

- Installing and commissioning airconditioning systems
- Testing airconditioning systems for leaks and undertaking appropriate repairs or alterations
- Maintaining and repairing airconditioning systems and components
- Completing required compliance documentation about handling gases.

What do Refrigerated Airconditioning plumbers need to know and do?

Plumbers undertaking Refrigerated Airconditioning work apply critical knowledge and skills to ensure the health and safety of the community. What does this mean for you?

As a registered practitioner, you must be able to understand and apply the compliance requirements of Refrigerated Airconditioning work. These requirements include:

- AS/NZS 1677.1 Refrigerating systems Part 1: Refrigerant classification
- AS/NZS 1677.2 Refrigerating systems Part 2: Safety requirements for fixed applications
- HB 276 – 2004 A Guide to Good Practice for Energy Efficient Installation of Residential Heating, Cooling and Airconditioning Plant and Equipment
- Australia and New Zealand refrigerant handling code of practice 2007 Part 1 – Self-contained low charge systems
- Australia and New Zealand Refrigerant handling code of practice 2007 Part 2 – Systems other than self-contained low charge systems.

To undertake Refrigerated Airconditioning work to a safe and competent standard, you must also be able to:

- read site or building plans and identify installation locations
- read, interpret and apply manufacturer specifications
- locate and rectify faults in motors and controls in refrigeration and airconditioning systems and low voltage composite appliances
- fabricate, assemble and dismantle utilities industry components
- install and commission airconditioning and refrigeration systems
- recover, pressure test, evacuate, charge and leak test refrigerants
- select refrigerant piping, accessories and associated controls
- diagnose and rectify faults in airconditioning and refrigeration systems and components
- disconnect/reconnect composite appliances connected to low voltage installation wiring.

What competencies and experience do you need?

To be registered in Refrigerated Airconditioning work, you must already be registered in Mechanical Services work (or a restricted component of this work).

Each class of plumbing work is described by a set of units of competency. Each unit of competency describes a work outcome, all the knowledge and skills needed to do the work to the expected standard, and how the knowledge and skills should be assessed. The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) uses the units of competency to assess your skills and experience if you apply to register in a class of plumbing work.

To meet the **knowledge requirements** for registration in Refrigerated Airconditioning work, you must have:

- completed MEM30205 Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade, **or** UEE3221 Certificate III in Airconditioning and Refrigeration, **or** demonstrate knowledge and competence equivalent to the qualification, and
- hold a restricted electrical workers licence.

To meet the **experience requirements** for registration, you must:

- have completed an apprenticeship in refrigeration, **or**
- demonstrate you were employed in Refrigerated Airconditioning work for four years.

Before applying for registration, please read the current [approved units of competency](#) for Refrigerated Airconditioning.

Your next step

If you are registered in Mechanical Services work (or a restricted component of this work) and think you have the required skills, knowledge and experience in Refrigerated Airconditioning work, then go to the [VBA website](#) to learn how to apply for registration in this specialised class of plumbing work.