

# NEWS FLASH

## REFRIGERANT RECLAIM LEVY RISE

Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) have recently had approved by ACCC, an increase to its levy on refrigerant gas imported and sold in Australia from \$1.00/kg to \$1.50/kg plus GST effective 1st January 2007.

### **Who is RRA and why was it necessary?**

RRA is a not-for-profit organisation created to work nationally with industry to share the responsibility for, and costs of, recovering, reclaiming and destroying surplus and unwanted refrigerants. Prior to the formation of RRA, even though legislation requiring recovery of old refrigerants was passed in Australia in the late 1980s, there were no:

- reprocessing or destruction facilities available to handle the gases
- systems in place for safely collecting, storing or destroying old refrigerants.

This meant that wholesalers and contactors:

- had to use their premises as warehouses to store returned material, which they could not get rid of
- were covering the additional costs of, and carrying the burden relating to, enforcing the legislation.

### **What is the levy?**

The levy funds the collection and disposal of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases. Since the program began in mid 1993 more than 1,700 tonnes of refrigerant have been taken back.

### **Why the increase?**

The levy has remained at \$1.00/kg since 1994. This rise has been made in order to allow RRA to cope with increased demand for disposing of refrigerant gases.

