N.J.A.C. 7:27E
GREENHOUSE GAS MONITORING AND REPORTING

Statutory Authority: N.J.S.A. 13:1B-3(e), 13:1D-9, 26:2C-1 et seq., and 26:2C-37 et seq., particularly, 26:2C-41.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

7:27E-1.1 Applicability

(a) This chapter applies to:

1. A facility with one or more refrigeration systems with a full charge greater than or equal to 50 pounds of a high-GWP refrigerant or combination of refrigerants, at least one of which is a high-GWP refrigerant; and

2. A gas public utility that operates mains and service lines within the State providing natural gas.

7:27E-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Air-conditioning" means any stationary, non-residential appliance, including a computer-room air conditioner, that provides cooling to a space for the purpose of cooling objects or occupants, but excludes chillers.

“Air contaminant” means any substance, other than water or distillates of air, present in the atmosphere as solid particles, liquid particles, vapors, or gases.

“Appliance” means any device that contains and uses a high-GWP refrigerant, including any refrigerator, chiller, freezer, or refrigeration system.


“Chiller” means a system of equipment used for chilling consisting of one or more compressors, condensers, and evaporators, with interconnections and accessories, including
controls, designed for the purpose of cooling or heating water or a heat transfer fluid. A chiller is a machine specifically designed to make use of a vapor compression refrigeration cycle or absorption refrigeration cycle to transfer heat from a cold water or heat transfer fluid circulating system to the air, a heat transfer fluid, or other heat exchange media. Chillers can be water-cooled, air-cooled, or evaporatively cooled. Chillers include, but are not limited to, rotary chillers, centrifugal chillers, and positive displacement chillers, including reciprocating, scroll, and screw chillers. “Chiller” includes those used for comfort cooling, space and area cooling, or industrial process cooling.

“Chlorofluorocarbon” or “CFC” means a class of compounds primarily used as refrigerants, consisting of only chlorine, fluorine, and carbon.

“Commercial refrigeration” means a refrigeration appliance used in the retail food and cold storage warehouse sectors. For purposes of this definition, “retail food” includes supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, and other food service establishments. “Cold storage” includes the storage of meat, produce, dairy products, and other perishable goods.

“Component,” for purposes of N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2, means part of a refrigeration system or appliance (including condensing units, compressors, condensers, evaporators, and receivers) and all of its connections and subassemblies, without which the refrigeration system or appliance will not properly function or will be subject to failure.

“Construct” or “construction” means to fabricate or erect equipment or control apparatus at a facility where it is intended to be used, but shall not include the dismantling of existing equipment or control apparatus, site preparation, the ordering, receiving, temporary
storage, installation of equipment or control apparatus, or the pouring of footings or placement of a foundation where equipment or control apparatus is intended to be used.

“Consumer Price Index” or “CPI” means the annual average percent change reflecting the change in the average index for all 12 months of one year to the average index for all months the next year, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Control apparatus” means any device that prevents or controls the emission of any air contaminant, directly or indirectly, into the outdoor atmosphere.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

“Distillates of air” means helium (He), nitrogen (N₂), oxygen (O₂), neon (Ne), argon (Ar), krypton (Kr), and xenon (Xe).

“Equipment” means any device capable of causing the emission of an air contaminant, and any stack or chimney, conduit, flue, duct, vent, or similar device connected or attached to, or serving the equipment.

“Equipment type” means commercial refrigeration, industrial process refrigeration, or other refrigeration.

“Facility” means the combination of all structures, buildings, equipment, control apparatus, storage tanks, source operations, and other operations that are located on a single site or on contiguous or adjacent sites and that are under common control of the same person or persons.

“Facility contact person” means any person that will serve as a point of communication with the Department and is knowledgeable about the facility’s refrigeration system.
“Facility identification number” means a unique identifier assigned by the Department when a facility is registered pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.

“Full charge” means the amount of refrigerant required in the refrigerant circuit for normal operating characteristics and conditions of a refrigeration system or appliance, as determined by using one of the following three methods:

1. The equipment manufacturer's specifications of the full charge;

2. A calculation based on component size, density of refrigerant, volume of piping, seasonal variances, and other relevant considerations; or

3. The midpoint of an established range for full charge based on the best available data regarding the normal operating characteristics and conditions for the system.

“Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined at N.J.S.A. 48:2-13, that distributes natural gas to end users within the State.

“Global warming potential” or “GWP” means the radiative forcing impact of one mass-based unit of a given greenhouse gas relative to an equivalent unit of carbon dioxide over a given period of time.

“Global warming potential value” or “GWP value” means the 100-year GWP value published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its report, IPCC, 2007: Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR4), and if not in AR4, the GWP value means the 100-year GWP value published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its report, IPCC, 2013: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel

"Grade 1 leak" means the grade classification of a leak that represents an existing or probable hazard to persons or property and requires prompt action, immediate repair, or continuous action until the conditions are no longer hazardous.

"Grade 2 leak" means the grade classification of a leak that is recognized as being not hazardous at the time of detection, but justifies scheduled repair, based on the potential for creating a future hazard.

"Grade 3 leak" means the grade classification of a leak that is not hazardous at the time of detection and can reasonably be expected to remain not hazardous.

“Grade classification” means the ranking of leaks and their probable hazard and need for repair.

“High-GWP refrigerant” means a compound used as a heat transfer fluid or gas that is a chlorofluorocarbon, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon, a hydrofluorocarbon, a perfluorocarbon, or any compound or blend of compounds with a 100-year GWP value equal to or greater than 150.

“Hydrochlorofluorocarbon” or “HCFC” means a class of compounds primarily used as refrigerants, consisting of only hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, and carbon.

“Hydrofluorocarbon” or “HFC” means a class of compounds primarily used as refrigerants, consisting of only hydrogen, fluorine, and carbon.
“Industrial process refrigeration” means complex customized appliances used in the chemical, pharmaceutical, petrochemical, and manufacturing industries that are directly linked to the industrial process. “Industrial process refrigeration” includes industrial ice machines, appliances used directly in the generation of electricity, and ice rinks. Where one appliance is used for both industrial process refrigeration and other applications, it will be considered industrial process refrigeration equipment if 50 percent or more of its operating capacity is used for industrial process refrigeration.

“Initial refrigerant charge” means the quantity, in pounds, of high-GWP refrigerant added to a refrigeration system or appliance in order to bring the system to a full charge upon initial installation of a refrigeration system.

“Install” or “installation” means to carry out final setup activities necessary to provide equipment with the capacity for use or service. This term includes, but is not limited to, connection of equipment, associated utilities, piping, ductwork, or conveyor systems. This term does not include “construction,” nor the reconfiguration of equipment to an alternate configuration specified in a permit application and approved by the Department. This term includes relocation of existing equipment.

“Leak identification number” means a unique identification number assigned by the gas public utility to each leak at a gas public utility. The leak identification number is comprised of the gas public utility identification number followed by a hyphen, followed by a three-digit number starting with 001 sequentially assigned to each unique leak at a gas public utility. For example, if a gas public utility has an identification number of 12345, then the leak identification number for the first leak would be 12345-001.
“Low temperature refrigeration system” means a commercial or industrial refrigeration system used for frozen products.

"Main" has the meaning defined for this term at 49 CFR 192.3. A main is a type of distribution line.

“Medium temperature refrigeration system” means a commercial or industrial refrigeration system used for chilled products.

“Normal operating characteristics and conditions” means a refrigeration system’s operating temperatures, pressures, fluid flows, speeds, and other characteristics, including full charge of the refrigeration system, that would be expected for a given process load and ambient condition during operation. Normal operating characteristics and conditions are marked by the absence of atypical conditions affecting the operation of the refrigeration system.

“Operating” or “in operation,” for the purposes of N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2, means the use of a refrigeration system for cooling or freezing. A refrigeration system is considered to be operating, or in operation for, the entirety of any calendar month where it is used for cooling or freezing in any manner for more than a total of 24 hours.

“Other refrigeration” means any stationary, non-residential appliance that is used for an application other than industrial process refrigeration, commercial refrigeration, or air-conditioning, or is used for two or more applications including industrial process refrigeration, commercial refrigeration, or air-conditioning.

“Perfluorocarbon” or “PFC” means a class of compounds consisting only of carbon and fluorine.
“Person” means an individual, public or private corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, society, joint stock company, international entity, institution, county, municipality, state, interstate body, the United States of America, or any agency, board, commission, employee, agent, officer, or political subdivision of a state, an interstate body, or the United States of America.

“Pipeline” has the meaning defined for this term at N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.1A.

“Reclaim” has the meaning defined for this term at 40 CFR 82.152.

“Recover” means to remove refrigerant in any condition from an appliance and to store it in an external container without necessarily testing or processing it in any way.

“Refrigerant circuit” means the parts of a refrigeration system that are normally connected to each other (or are separated by isolation valves) and are designed to contain a high-GWP refrigerant. A single refrigerant circuit is defined by all piping and components that use refrigerant from a common reservoir of a high-GWP refrigerant.

“Refrigerant leak” means any discharge of refrigerant into the atmosphere from a refrigeration system.

“Refrigeration system” means stationary, non-residential equipment that is an industrial process refrigeration, commercial refrigeration, or other refrigeration appliance, with a single refrigerant circuit that requires 50 pounds or more of any combination of high-GWP refrigerant to maintain normal operating characteristics and conditions. Refrigeration system does not include an air-conditioning appliance.

“Refrigeration system identification number” means a unique identification number that the owner or operator gives to each refrigeration system at a facility. The refrigeration system
identification number is comprised of the facility identification number followed by a hyphen, followed by a three-digit number starting with 001 sequentially assigned to each unique refrigeration system at a facility. For example, if a facility has a facility identification number of 12345, then the identification number for the first refrigeration system would be 12345-001.

“Residential” means a residential dwelling containing four or fewer dwelling units on one lot or parcel.

“Responsible official” has the meaning defined for this term at N.J.A.C. 7:27-1.4.

"Service line" has the meaning defined for this term at 49 CFR 192.3. A gas service line is a type of distribution line.

“Source operation” means any process, or any identifiable part thereof, that emits, or can reasonably be anticipated to emit, any air contaminant, either directly or indirectly, into the outdoor atmosphere. A source operation may include one or more pieces of equipment or control apparatus.

“Stationary” means meeting at least one of the following conditions:

1. Installed in a building, structure, or facility;

2. Attached to a foundation or, if not so attached, will reside in the same location for more than 12 consecutive months; or

3. Located at the same single location for at least two consecutive years and operates at that single location at least three months each year.

7:27E-1.3 Adjustment of fees
THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS RULE. ALL OF THE DEPARTMENT’S RULES ARE COMPILED IN TITLE 7 OF THE NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

(a) The Department will increase the fees at N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.2 and 3.3, in accordance with the schedule at Table 1 below.

1. Every five years, the fees shall be adjusted by the previous five-year cumulative inflation factor, rounded down to the next five-dollar increment. The Consumer Price Index, which is used to calculate the five-year cumulative inflation factor, shall be calculated using the Annual Average from the Annual Average Consumer Price Index, for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. City Average, all items, index averages. This data is published annually by the U.S. Department of Labor and is available at https://www.bls.gov/cpi/tables/supplemental-files/home.htm.

2. The Recent CPI-U shall equal the most currently published Annual Average CPI-U before January 1 of the next five-year period at Table 1. The Base CPI-U shall equal the Annual Average CPI-U for the fifth year prior to the Recent CPI-U.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five-Year Period</th>
<th>Base CPI-U</th>
<th>Recent CPI-U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21, 2022* through December 31, 2025</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2019 Annual Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030</td>
<td>2019 Annual Average</td>
<td>2024 Annual Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2031 through December 31, 2035</td>
<td>2024 Annual Average</td>
<td>2029 Annual Average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The first period begins on June 21, 2022, and is less than five full calendar years.

3. If the inflation factor is a negative number, the fee shall remain unchanged.
4. The Department will publish a notice of administrative change announcing the adjustment and the amount of the adjusted fees in the New Jersey Register.

5. The adjusted fees shall be operative starting the first day of each five-year period stated at Table 1 above.

7:27E-1.4 Confidentiality

All information submitted to the Department pursuant to this chapter shall be public information, unless the person submitting the information asserts a confidentiality claim in accordance with the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:27-1 and the Department determines that the information is entitled to confidential treatment. Information submitted electronically cannot be handled confidentially. Therefore, information submitted pursuant to a confidentiality claim must be submitted in paper form only, and the claims of confidentiality must be asserted by clearly marking the information as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:27-1.6.

7:27E-1.5 Right to enter

(a) The Department, and its representatives, shall have the right to enter and inspect, at any time, any facility, building, or portion thereof, including all documents and equipment on the premises, in order to ascertain compliance or noncompliance with this chapter. This right is absolute and shall not be conditioned upon any action by the Department, except the presentation of appropriate credentials, as requested, and compliance with appropriate safety standards.
(b) No person shall obstruct, hinder, or delay the Department, or its representatives, in its exercise of its rights pursuant to (a) above.

(c) An owner or operator of a facility, and any appropriate employee or representative of any owner or operator, shall, upon request, assist the Department and its representatives in the performance of any inspection.

7:27E-1.6 Severability

If any subchapter, section, subsection, provision, clause, or portion of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person, is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the subchapter, section, subsection, provision, clause, portion, or application directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment was rendered and it shall not affect or impair the remainder of this chapter or the application thereof to other persons.

7:27E-1.7 Civil administrative penalties and requests for administrative hearings

Penalties for violations of the provisions of this chapter and the procedure for requesting an adjudicatory hearing are provided at N.J.A.C. 7:27A, Air Administrative Procedures and Penalties.

SUBCHAPTER 2. REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FOR REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS

7:27E-2.1 Registration requirements for a facility with one or more refrigeration systems
(a) The owner or operator of a facility with one or more refrigeration systems with a full charge greater than or equal to 50 pounds of high-GWP refrigerant shall electronically register the facility with the Department through the online business portal at NJDEPonline.com, in accordance with (b) below, by the following dates:

1. October 1, 2022, where the facility had at least one refrigeration system installed on or before June 21, 2022; or

2. Ninety days after installation of the first refrigeration system at a facility that had no refrigeration systems before June 21, 2022.

(b) The registration shall include the following information:

1. Name of facility, including a facility identifier, such as store number, if any;
2. Facility mailing address including street address, city, state, and zip code;
3. Physical location of the facility, including street address, city, state, and zip code;
4. Facility’s North American Industry Classification System Code number (NAICS Code), if applicable;
5. New Jersey Employer Identification Number or Federal Tax Identification Number; and
6. Responsible official’s name, title, phone number, and email address.

(c) Registration shall not be complete until the owner or operator of the facility submits the registration fee to the Department, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.2.

(d) The owner or operator of a registered facility shall notify the Department of any change to the information required at (b) above, through a registration change form provided by the Department at https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/, within 120 days of any such change.
(e) Registration pursuant to this section is effective for a period of five years.

(f) To renew a registration, the owner or operator shall pay the renewal registration fee to the Department in accordance with the registration renewal invoice that the Department sends to the facility, as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.2. The registration renewal fee shall be the same as the initial registration fee then in effect.

7:27E-2.2 Registration fee

The owner or operator of a facility subject to registration in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.1 shall pay the registration fee through the Department’s online business portal at NJDEPonline.com or by submitting payment to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. The initial registration fee is $400.00. The registration fee cannot be prorated or refunded. The Department will not register a facility or renew a registration until it receives the appropriate fee.

7:27E-2.3 Reporting requirements for a facility with one or more refrigeration systems

(a) The owner or operator of a facility subject to registration in accordance with this subchapter shall electronically submit through the Department’s online business portal (NJDEPonline.com) an annual Facility Refrigeration System Report that contains the information specified at (b) below. The report shall be submitted to the Department in accordance with the following schedule:

1. A facility with one or more refrigeration systems on or before June 21, 2022, shall submit to the Department, on or before April 1, 2023, an initial report for the period from
October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Subsequent reports shall be for a calendar year and shall be submitted by April 1 for the preceding calendar year.

2. All other facilities shall submit to the Department, on or before April 1 of the calendar year after installation of the first refrigeration system, an initial report for the period from the first day of the first month following installation or September 19, 2022, whichever is later, through December 31 of the year of installation. Subsequent reports shall be for a calendar year and shall be submitted by April 1 for the preceding calendar year.

(b) The Facility Refrigeration System Report shall include the following information for each refrigeration system at the facility:

1. Facility Identification Number;
2. Facility contact person’s name, title, phone number, and email address;
3. Refrigeration system identification number;
4. Refrigeration system installation date;
5. Equipment type;
6. Equipment manufacturer;
7. Equipment model or description;
8. Equipment model year;
9. The serial number(s) of the equipment or component, present and accessible. When the equipment or component is part of an assembly without a serial number, does not have an individual serial number, or is not accessible after assembly, the physical
location of the equipment must be recorded in enough detail to permit positive identification;

10. Temperature classification (low temperature refrigeration system, medium temperature refrigeration system, or any other temperature classification);

11. Full charge of the refrigeration system (in pounds);

12. Type of high-GWP refrigerant(s) used;

13. The total weight in pounds of each type of high-GWP refrigerant that the facility purchased during the reporting period;

14. The total weight in pounds of each type of high-GWP refrigerant that was charged into a refrigeration system during the reporting period, but was not part of an initial refrigerant charge;

15. The total weight in pounds of each type of high-GWP refrigerant that was recovered from a refrigeration system during the reporting period;

16. The total weight in pounds of each type of high-GWP refrigerant that was stored in inventory at the facility, or stored at a different location for use by the facility, on the last day of the reporting period; and

17. The total weight in pounds of each type of high-GWP refrigerant that was shipped by the facility during the reporting period to be reclaimed or destroyed.

7:27E-2.4 Recordkeeping requirements for a facility with one or more refrigeration systems
(a) The owner or operator of a facility registered in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.1 shall maintain the following records for five years at the facility and make the records available to the Department upon request:

1. Records showing all refrigeration system service and refrigerant leak repairs;
2. Records showing each item required to be reported in the Facility Refrigeration System Report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27E-2.3(b); and
3. Records of refrigeration system component data, measurements, calculations, and assumptions used to determine the full charge.

SUBCHAPTER 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS PUBLIC UTILITIES

7:27E-3.1 Reporting requirements for gas public utilities

(a) A gas public utility operating within the State shall electronically submit through the Department’s online business portal at NJDEPonline.com an annual Pipeline Modernization Report that contains the information specified at (b) below for mains and service lines in the State that are owned, leased, or controlled by the gas public utility. The Pipeline Modernization Report shall be submitted in accordance with the following schedule:

1. A gas public utility operating on or before June 21, 2022, shall submit to the Department, on or before June 15, 2023, an initial report for the period from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Subsequent reports shall be for a calendar year and shall be submitted by June 15 for the preceding calendar year.
2. A gas public utility that begins operation after June 21, 2022, shall submit to the Department, on or before June 15 of the calendar year after operation begins, an initial
report for the period beginning the first of the month following operation through December 31. Subsequent reports shall be for a calendar year and shall be submitted by June 15 for the preceding calendar year.

(b) The Pipeline Modernization Report shall include:

1. The miles of mains and number of service lines in New Jersey, identified by material type, in the distribution system at the end of the reporting period.

2. Mains and service lines in New Jersey added, replaced, or refurbished in the reporting period, as follows:
   i. Miles of mains grouped by the original mains material type and the replacement or refurbished material type;
   ii. Number of service lines grouped by the original service line material type and the replacement or refurbished material type;
   iii. Miles of mains added, grouped by material type; and
   iv. Number of service lines added, grouped by material type.

3. Identification of each leak from pipeline components that have a leak grade classification ranked as grade 1, 2, or 3, as follows:
   i. Leak identification number;
   ii. Pipeline component that is leaking or has leaked;
   iii. Grade classification of the leak;
   iv. Date that the leak is reported;
   v. Date that the leak is repaired;
vi. Location of the leak, including the street address or location description, municipality in which the component is located, county, zip code, latitude, and longitude.;

vii. If known, the method by which the leak was identified; and

viii. If known, the volume of methane emissions released, per unit of time.

4. If applicable, leak detection practices that exceed the minimum requirements of 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart M, as follows:

i. Frequency of leak detection surveys;

ii. Types of leak detection equipment or technology utilized;

iii. Leak prevention and reduction efforts; and

iv. Plans to utilize leak detection equipment or technology that exceeds Federal requirements.

5. A report of each blowdown event in excess of 50 standard cubic feet (scf), conducted by a gas public utility, as follows:

i. Blowdown identification number;

ii. The amount of natural gas released, measured in standard cubic feet, as calculated with one of the following methodologies:

   (1) The volume of the pipeline segment between isolation valves and the pressure and the temperature of the gas within the pipeline in accordance with 40 CFR 98.233(i)2, incorporated by reference; or

   (2) The measurement of emissions using a flow meter in accordance with 40 CFR 98.233(i)3, incorporated by reference;

iii. The percent volume of methane of the natural gas released;
iv. Date of the blowdown event;

v. Reason for blowdown event;

vi. Mitigation efforts to reduce emissions from the blowdown event; and

vii. Location of blowdown event, including street address or location description, municipality, county, zip code, latitude, and longitude.

7:27E-3.2 Recordkeeping requirements for a gas public utility

The gas public utility shall maintain, for five years, at the headquarters of the gas public utility, records of each item required in the Pipeline Modernization Report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:27E-3.1, and shall make the records available to the Department upon request.

7:27E-3.3 Reporting fee

A gas public utility subject to this subchapter will be invoiced a reporting fee by the Department. The gas public utility shall pay the reporting fee by the invoice due date either through the Department’s online business portal at NJDEPonline.com or by submitting payment to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey, at the address listed on the invoice. The initial reporting fee is $8,000. The reporting fee cannot be prorated or refunded.