AHRI Guideline N

2017 Guideline for

Assignment of Refrigerant Container Colors

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Note:

This guideline supersedes AHRI Guideline N-2016 with Addendum 1.

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ASSIGNMENT OF REFRIGERANT CONTAINER COLORS

Section 1. Purpose

1.1 *Purpose*. The purpose of this guideline is to establish assignment of refrigerant container colors; definitions; basic considerations for developing the color guideline; and assignment criteria. This document is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all good practices or requirements. Applicable federal, state and local requirements should be reviewed and may take precedence over this guideline.

1.1.1 *Intent.* This guideline is intended for the guidance of the industry, including manufacturers, engineers, installers, contractors and users.

1.1.2 *Review and Amendment.* This guideline is subject to review and amendment as technology advances.

Section 2. Scope

2.1 *Scope.* This guideline provides a means by which PMS colors can be assigned to printed materials, such as printed labels on refrigerant containers, for Refrigerants currently in use or newly developed Refrigerants, provided the Refrigerant is used in significant quantities as defined in this guideline. Colors should not be relied upon exclusively to determine the type of Refrigerant in the container.

This guideline also recommends a universal container color of light green gray (RAL 7044) for all Refrigerants.

2.2 *Exclusions*. This guideline does not cover container colors for recovered and recycled Refrigerants, which are covered in AHRI Guideline K.

Section 3. Definitions

All terms in this document will follow the standard industry definitions in the *ASHRAE Terminology* website (https://www.ashrae.org/resources--publications/free-resources/ashrae-terminology) unless otherwise defined in this section.

3.1 *Refrigerants.* Refrigerants for purposes of this guideline include single component refrigerants, zeotropes and azeotropes.

3.1.1 *Flammable Refrigerants*. Those Refrigerants that receive a flammability rating of 2, 2L, or 3 in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 34, *Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants* with Addenda.

3.1.2 *High Pressure Refrigerants.* Those Refrigerants that meet the definition of a compressed gas and have a minimum cylinder service pressure exceeding 3447 kPa gage.

3.1.3 *Liquid Refrigerants*. Those Refrigerants with a normal boiling point greater than 20°C. These products normally are packaged in drums.

3.1.4 *Low Pressure Refrigerants.* Those Refrigerants that meet the definition of a compressed gas and have a minimum cylinder service pressure not exceeding 3447 kPa gage.

3.2 *"Should."* "Should" is used to indicate provisions which are not mandatory but which are desirable as good practice.

Section 4. Basic Considerations for Developing the Color Guideline

4.1 The color guideline is not a substitute for reading cylinder labels and markings. The color guideline does not apply to recovery containers. Refer to AHRI Guideline K for recovery containers.

4.2 Refrigerants are grouped in four classes in order to create more color opportunities within readily identifiable container styles and to clearly differentiate Flammable Refrigerants.

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