R424A (RS-44).
Zero ozone depletion potential replacement for R22.
R424A (RS-44).
Zero-ODP replacement for R22.

The environmental challenge

For over twenty years, the hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) R22 has been an extremely useful refrigerant gas across a wide range of air conditioning and refrigeration applications.

Like all HCFCs, however, R22 has been shown to deplete the ozone layer and is being phased out globally under the Montreal Protocol. At the same time, refrigeration solutions offering improved environmental performance are rapidly moving up the corporate sustainability agenda. These developments are fueling demand for retrofit refrigerant gas solutions suited to existing R22 refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. The aim is to provide satisfactory cooling performance with zero ozone depletion potential (ODP) and lower global warming potential (GWP).

The zero-ODP solution

Developed by Refrigerant Solutions Limited, R424A (RS-44) is an easy to use retrofit solution for R22 direct expansion air conditioning and medium temperature refrigeration systems. R424A is a zero-ODP hydrofluorocarbon blend. Containing less than 3% hydrocarbons, it ensures compatibility with mineral oils while eliminating the risk of flammability. This blend has been shown to be as efficient as R22, thus combining environmental gains with similar energy costs. A relatively straightforward retrofit process adds to the appeal of this solution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gas type</th>
<th>R22</th>
<th>R424A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred oil</td>
<td>Mineral (MO) or alkylbenzene (AB)</td>
<td>Mineral (MO), alkylbenzene (AB) or polyol-ester (POE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiling point @ 1 atm</td>
<td>–41 °C</td>
<td>–39 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical temperature</td>
<td>96 °C</td>
<td>89 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical pressure</td>
<td>50 bar(a)</td>
<td>40 bar(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozone depletion potential (ODP)</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global warming potential (GWP)</td>
<td>1810</td>
<td>2440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As defined by the Montreal Protocol Article 5 are developing countries, non-Article 5 are developed countries.

As R424A is compatible with traditional MO and AB, plus newer POE oils, the oil does not generally need to be changed. In systems where oil return is a concern, some POE oil may need to be added.

Add R424A, with an initial charge of 100% of the original weight. This can be topped up as needed.

R424A (like other gases such as R407C) is a zeotrope. Therefore it must be charged in the liquid phase to prevent fractionation. R424A does have a moderate glide of approximately 3 °C. This can normally be managed by a minor adjustment to the expansion device. R424A is generally not suitable for systems with centrifugal compressors or flooded evaporators.

Trusted partner

The Gases Division of The Linde Group is one of the largest and most global distributors of refrigerants. For more than 40 years, we have been a trusted partner of refrigeration and air conditioning companies around the world. We operate throughout Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

Our broad product range spans both traditional fluorocarbon and natural refrigerants in a wide range of packages. R424A is commonly available in cylinders and drum tanks. For larger volumes, it is also available in bulk ISO containers in some markets. Our high-quality operations and vast distribution networks ensure the quality and availability of our products. We also offer a range of complementary services, including technical support, legislative compliance assistance and environmental audits.

Benefits at a glance

Broad application spectrum
- Medium-temperature refrigeration equipment
- Commercial and domestic air conditioning systems
- Heat pumps

Lower environmental impact
- Zero ozone depletion potential
- Non-toxic and non-flammable
- Lower GWP than other R22 replacements

Easy, fast retrofit process
- No need to replace expensive equipment during the retrofit process
- No oil change necessary in many applications - compatible with MO, AB and POE oils

Impressive performance
- Cooling capacity, coefficient of performance and operating pressure similar to R22
- Power consumption similar to R22
- Lower discharge temperatures, extending equipment life

Retrofit made easy

Linde does not recommend mixing R424A and R22. Therefore the entire original R22 charge should be recovered without releasing any gas to the atmosphere. We also strongly recommend that you overhaul your system – filter drier and seals included – during the retrofit operation.

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R424A (like other gases such as R407C) is a zeotrope. Therefore it must be charged in the liquid phase to prevent fractionation. R424A does have a moderate glide of approximately 3 °C. This can normally be managed by a minor adjustment to the expansion device. R424A is generally not suitable for systems with centrifugal compressors or flooded evaporators.
Getting ahead through innovation.

With its innovative concepts, Linde is playing a pioneering role in the global market. As a technology leader, it is our task to constantly raise the bar. Traditionally driven by entrepreneurship, we are working steadily on new high-quality products and innovative processes.

Linde offers more. We create added value, clearly discernible competitive advantages, and greater profitability. Each concept is tailored specifically to meet our customers’ requirements – offering standardised as well as customised solutions. This applies to all industries and all companies regardless of their size.

If you want to keep pace with tomorrow’s competition, you need a partner by your side for whom top quality, process optimisation, and enhanced productivity are part of daily business. However, we define partnership not merely as being there for you but being with you. After all, joint activities form the core of commercial success.

Linde – Ideas become solutions.