



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

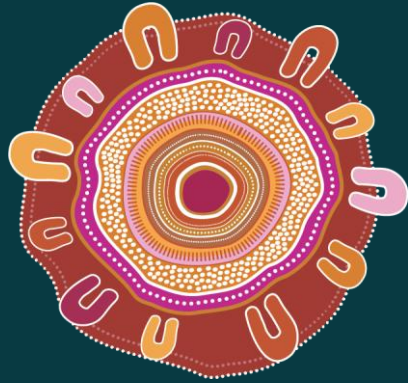
Shaping the Future of Fire Protection

National EPA Transition, Industry Data and
Training Needs

Presenter: Luke Bicket & Henry Coles

Date: 07/05/2026





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



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Agenda

1. Brief outline of the Ozone program
2. Australia's HFC Phase-down schedule
3. National Environment Protection Agency
4. Fire Permit Scheme Updates
5. Discharge Data
6. Field Engagement Outcomes
7. Gaseous Fire Suppression Industry Report
8. Fire Protection Permit Scheme survey results

A brief outline of the program



Montreal Protocol

- Removed ODS from the marketplace

SGGs took over

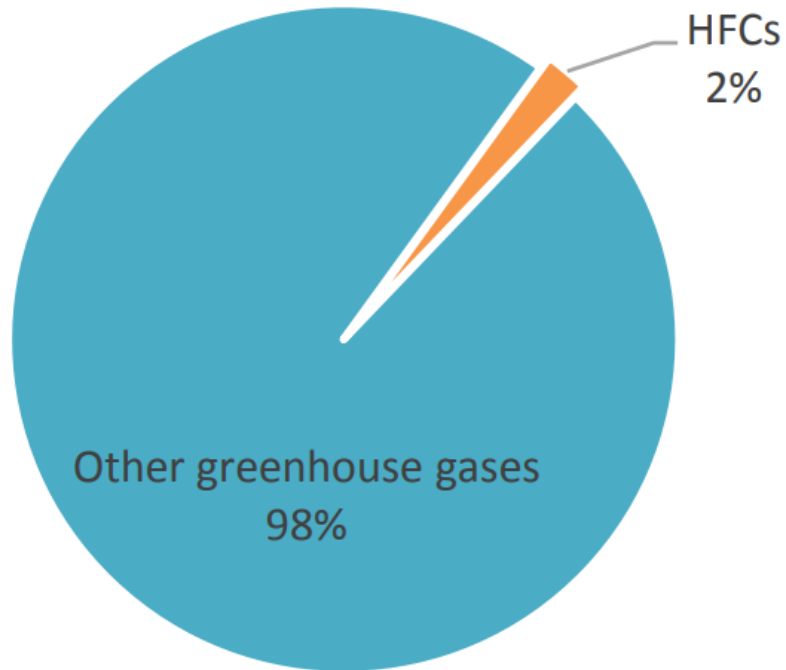
- Better for environment
- High GWP being phased down

Moving towards Safer Alternatives

- Importation bans have started

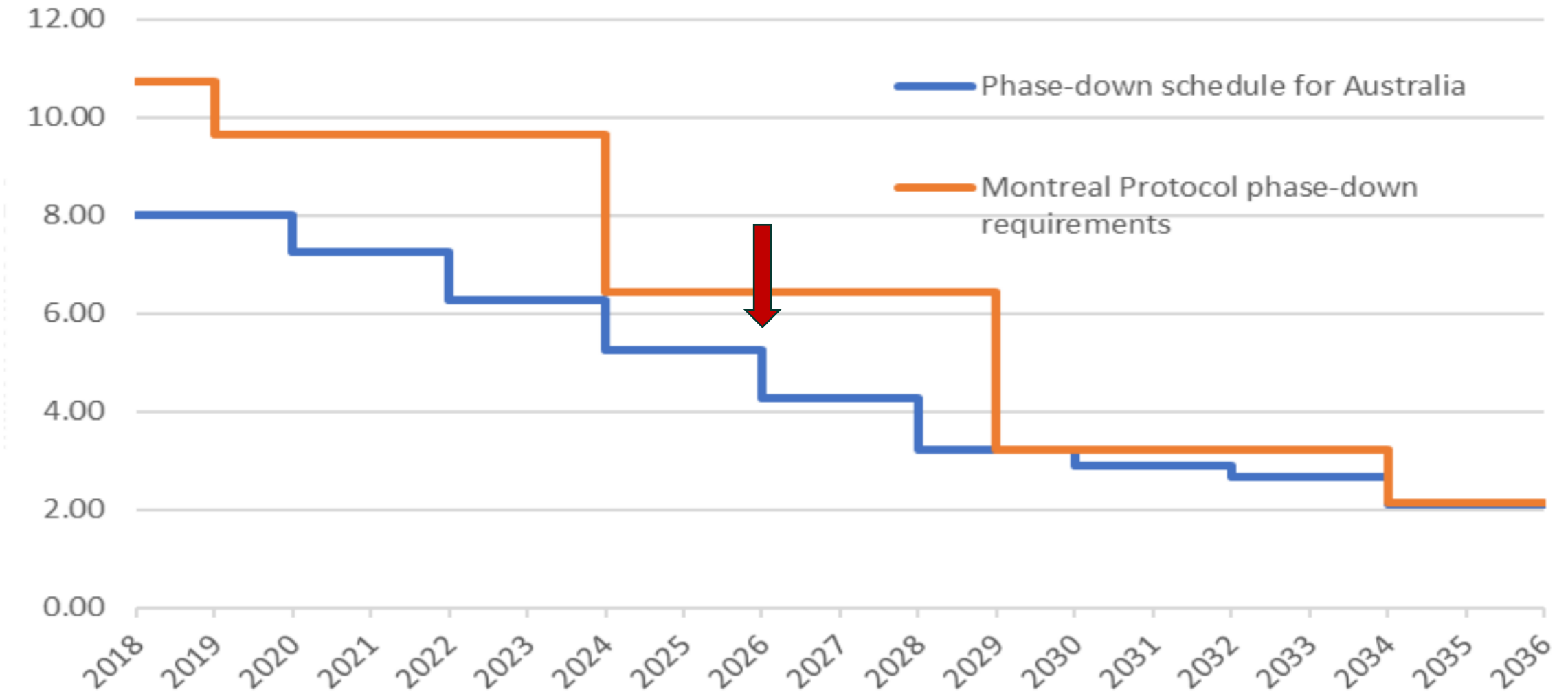
What are HFCs

**Australia's 2015
greenhouse gas emissions**



- Synthetic greenhouse gases
- Commonly used in refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment
- Have a high global warming potential (GWP)
- When they are released, synthetic greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere

Australia's HFC phase-down schedule



iChems consultation

- Consultation about how these chemicals should be scheduled should occur later this year.
- To ask a question or to subscribe for IChEMS updates, email ichems.enquiry@dcceew.gov.au
- For matters related to policy on HFCs, email ozonepolicy@dcceew.gov.au.



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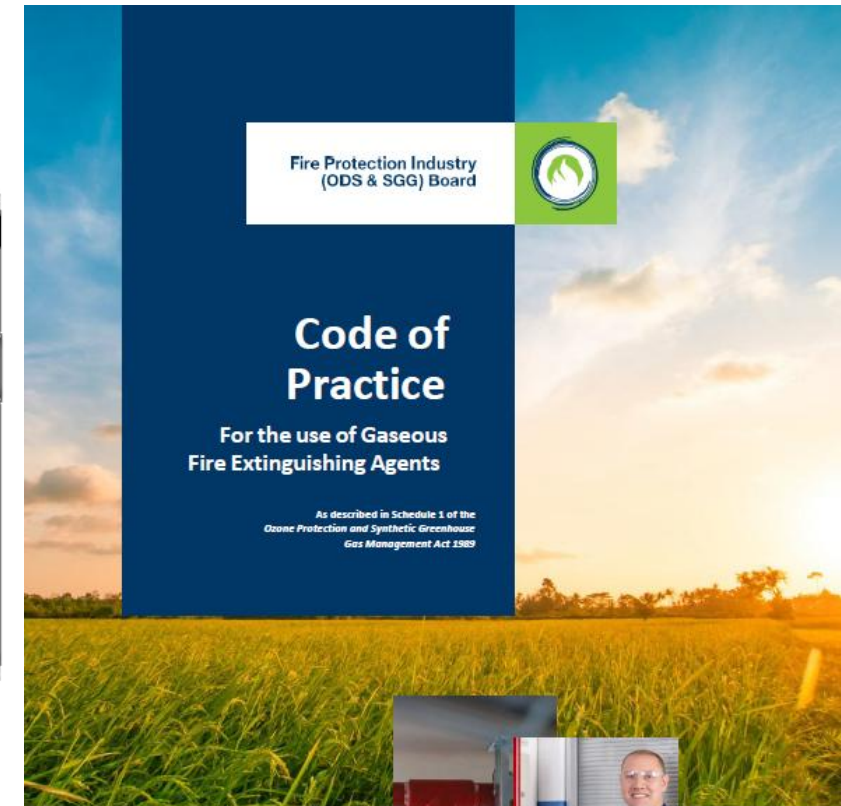
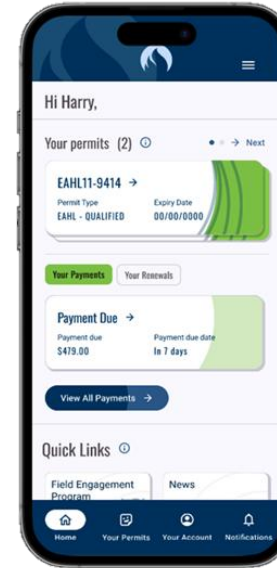
National Environmental Protection Agency

Commencing
soon 1 July
2026



Permit Scheme Updates

- Mobile App
- FPIB licensing portal
- Ozone Best Practice Awards
- Code of Practice
- State-of-the Industry Report



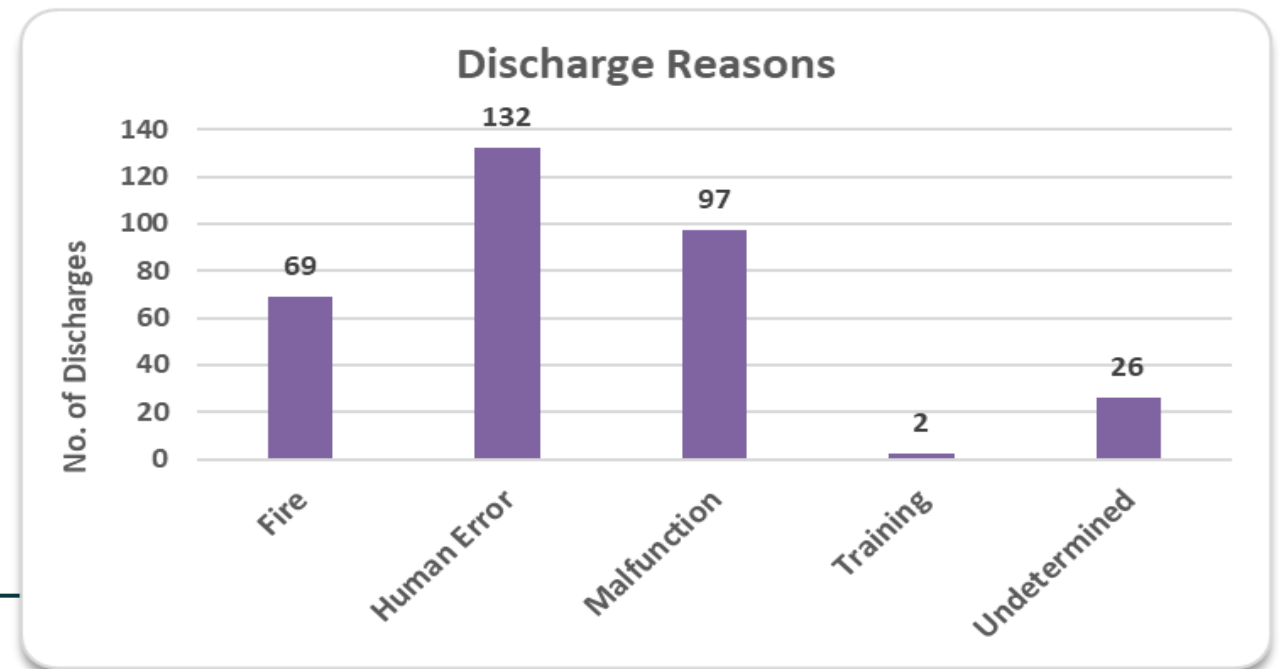
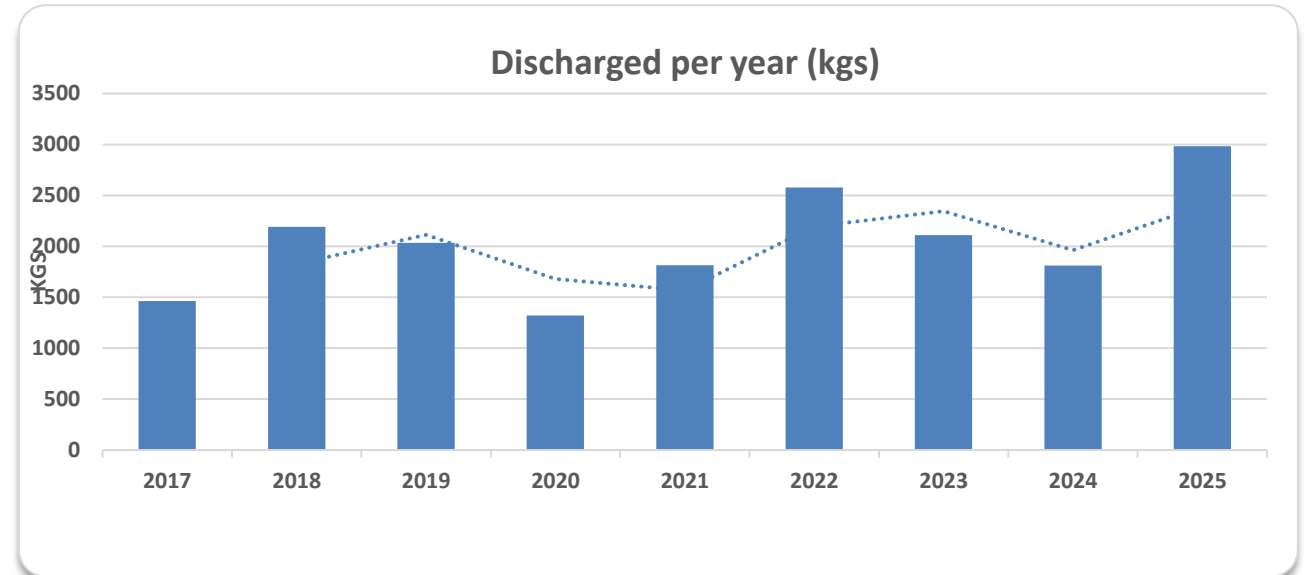
Developed by the Fire Protection Industry
(ODS & SGG) Board

Code of Practice for all fire protection
system practitioners and companies who
handle or trade in extinguishing agents as
described in Schedule 1 of the Ozone
Protection and SGG Management Act
1989.



Discharge data

- Human error is the most reported reason and a focus for educational material and site visits
- Since 2025 we've seen:
 - an **increase** in reporting
 - an **increase** in discharged gas
- FM-200 is our most discharged gas
- Mining sector the biggest emitter



-
- A map of Australia with 72 numbered blue circular markers indicating locations for the 2015-2016 season. The markers are distributed across the country, with a high concentration along the eastern coast (New South Wales and Victoria) and a few in the west (Western Australia). The map includes labels for major Australian states and territories: Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania. It also shows neighboring countries (Timor, Indonesia, Solomon Islands) and bodies of water (Arafura Sea, Timor Sea, Coral Sea, Tasman Sea, Great Australian Bight). Specific locations labeled include Port Moresby, Darwin Port Operations, Port Denison Marina, Port Bouvard Marina, Albany Waterfront Marina, Sydney, and Tamar Yacht Club Marina. The numbers 1 through 72 are placed within the blue circles, representing a sequence of locations.

Gaseous Fire Suppression Industry Report

- Inform policy development and prepare industry for changes relating to the HFC phasedown to 2036.
- Input into the ongoing management of ODS and SGGs and planning for the future regulatory environment
- Support measures to further reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases and reduce business costs.
- Will be published on the DCCEE Website hopefully by the end of the year



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Fire Protection Permit Scheme Survey



Fire Protection Permit Scheme Survey

[Consultation hub](#) > Refrigerant and Extinguishing Agent Permit Schemes

Refrigerant and Extinguishing Agent Permit Schemes

[Regulation](#) | [Environment protection](#) | [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#) | [Emissions reduction](#)



On this page

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[Responsibilities](#)

[Read more](#)

Overview

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking feedback as part of our commitment to continuous improvement on the implementation of two permit schemes:

- Refrigeration and air conditioning permit scheme
- Fire protection permit scheme.

These permit schemes control how ozone depleting and synthetic greenhouse gases regulated under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995* are handled and traded.

We are seeking feedback in the following areas:

- Licence application process and conditions
- Permit condition checks and departmental compliance approach

Timeline

- ✓ Opened
30 January 2025
- ✓ Closed
2 March 2025

Contact

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas regulatory team

Emails

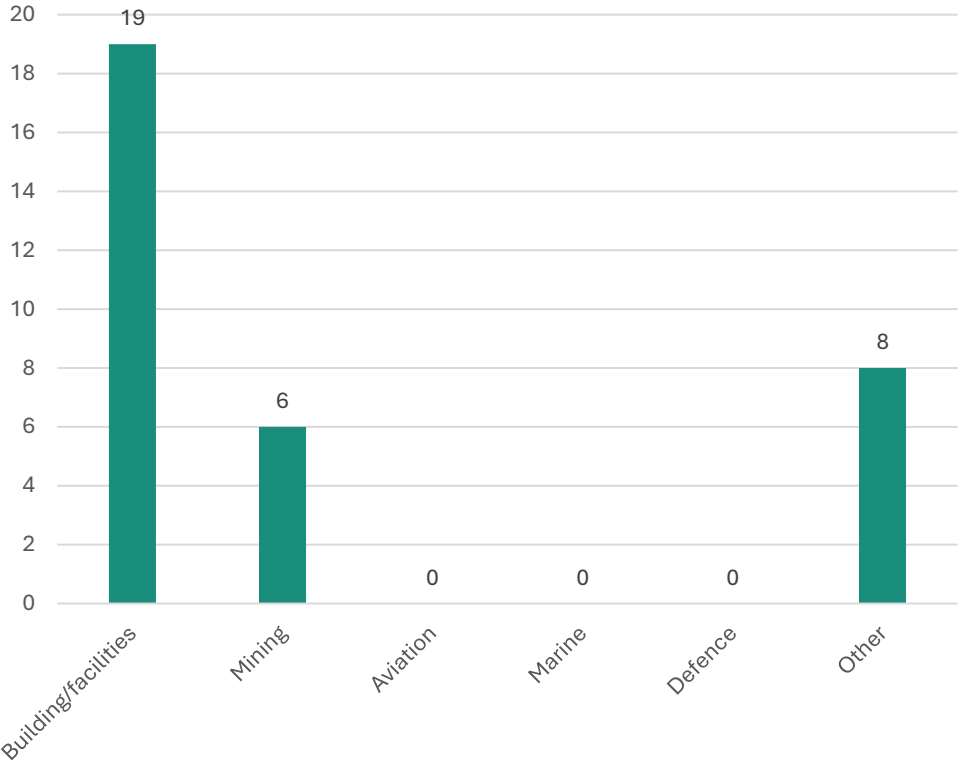
Refrigeration and air conditioning team:
RAC@dcceew.gov.au

- 30 Jan – 2 March 2025
- 3 key topics:
 - Compliance/permit checks
 - Communication and outreach
 - Training
- Advertised in Gasbag
- 36 responses

Who Responded

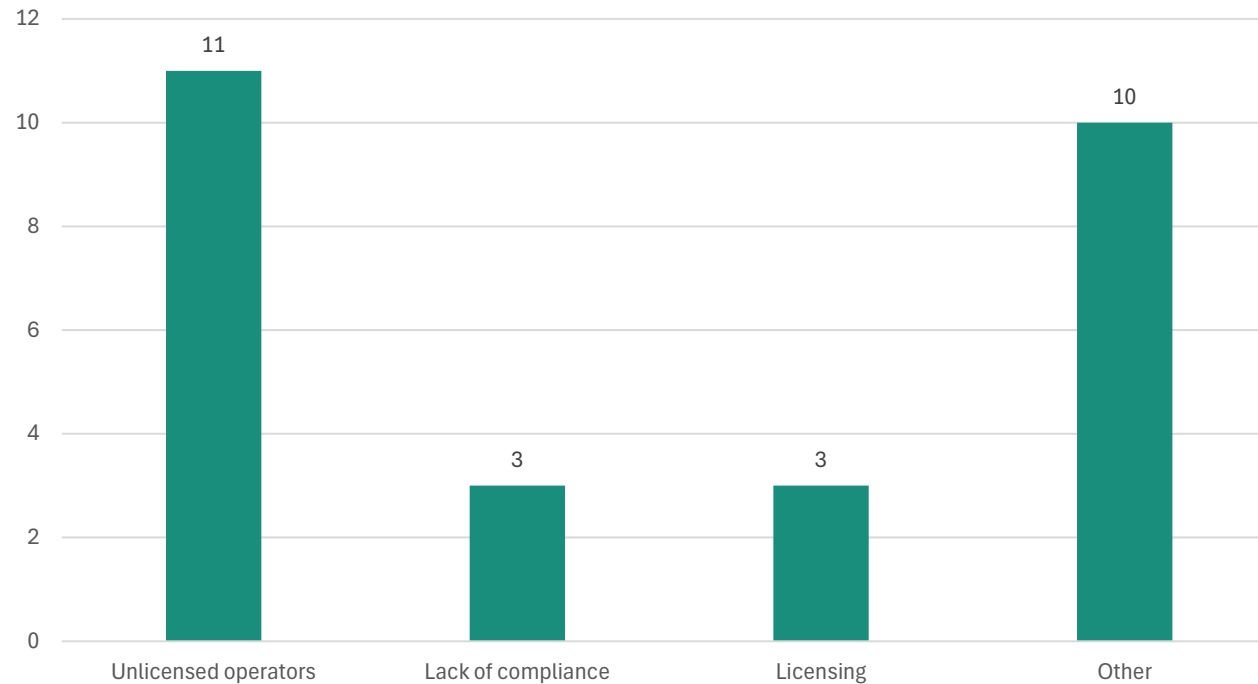
Respondent Category	Number
Business / Trading Licence Holder	4
Industry / professional organisation	2
Technician / Handling Licence Holder	29
Equipment owner or user	0
Other	1

Respondents Industry Sectors



Findings - Compliance

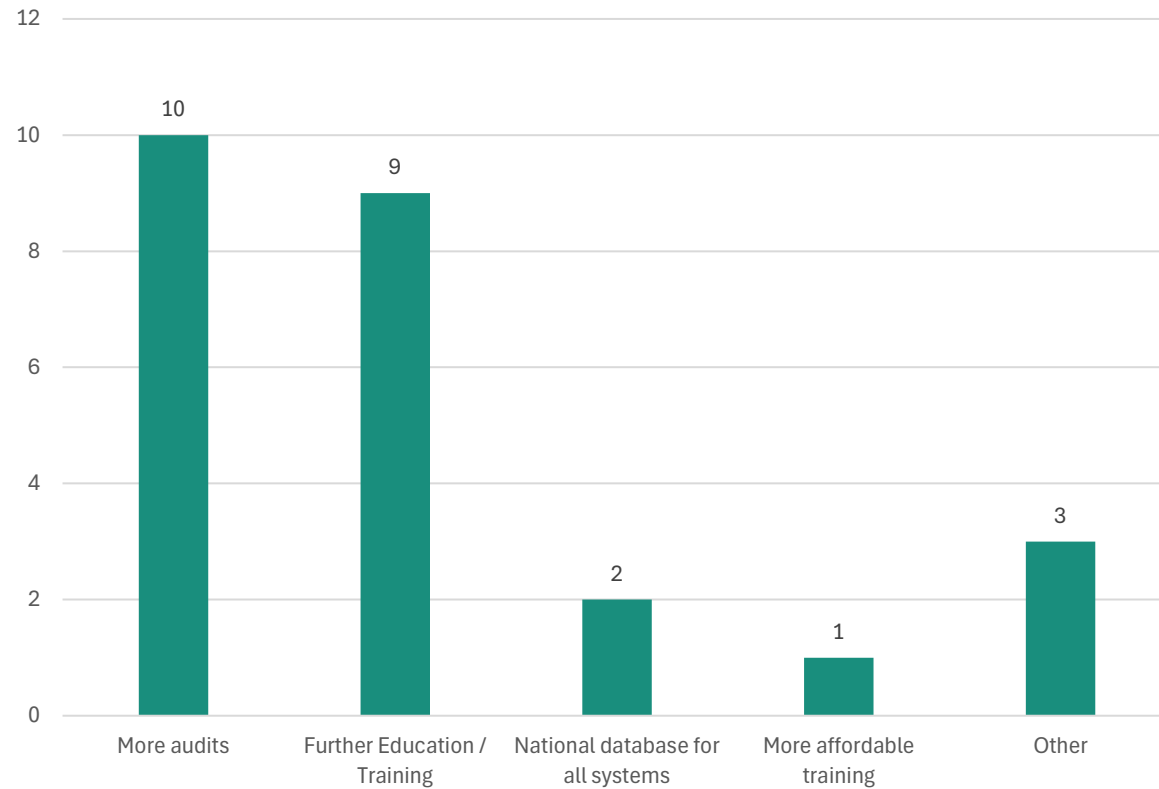
What are the most common compliance issues?



41% (11 of 27) highlighted unlicensed operators as the most common compliance issue.

Findings – Compliance

How might we better support people to comply and prevent non-compliance?

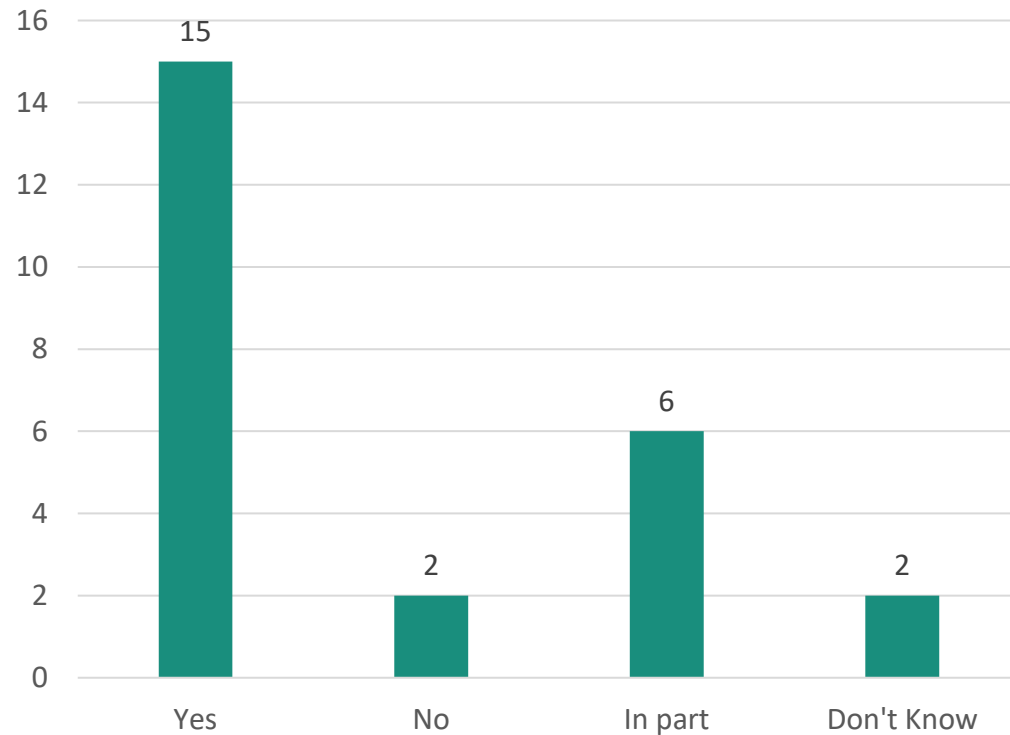


Most agreed the best way to support compliance is to:

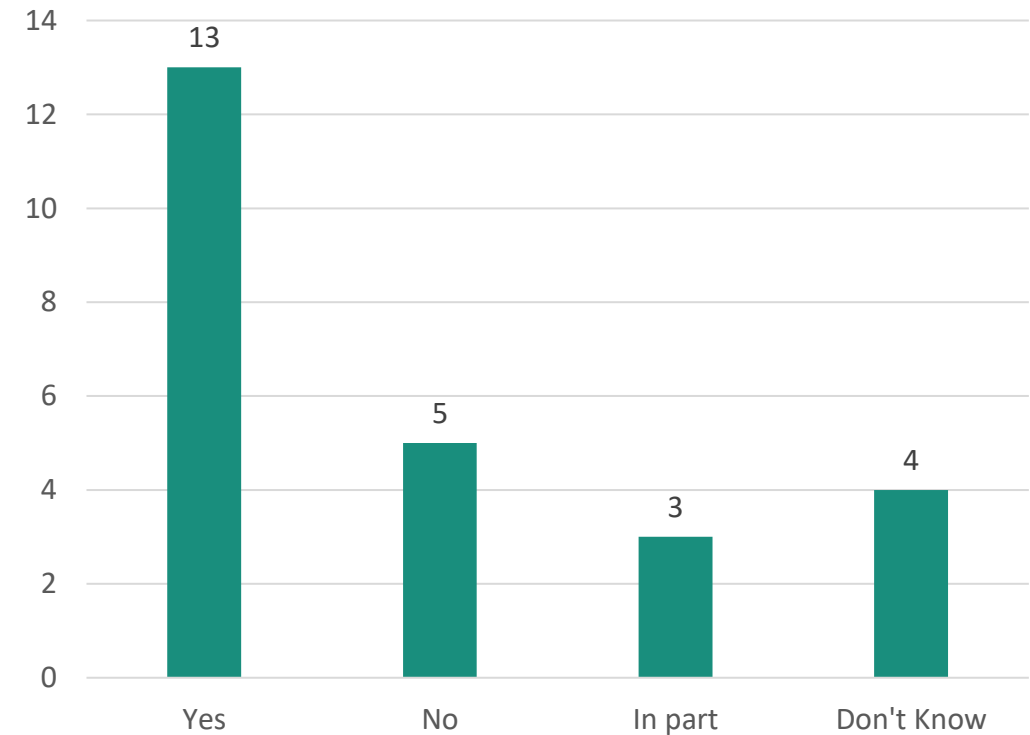
- 1) Increase the number of audits – 40%
- 2) Increase Sector training - 36%

Findings - Training

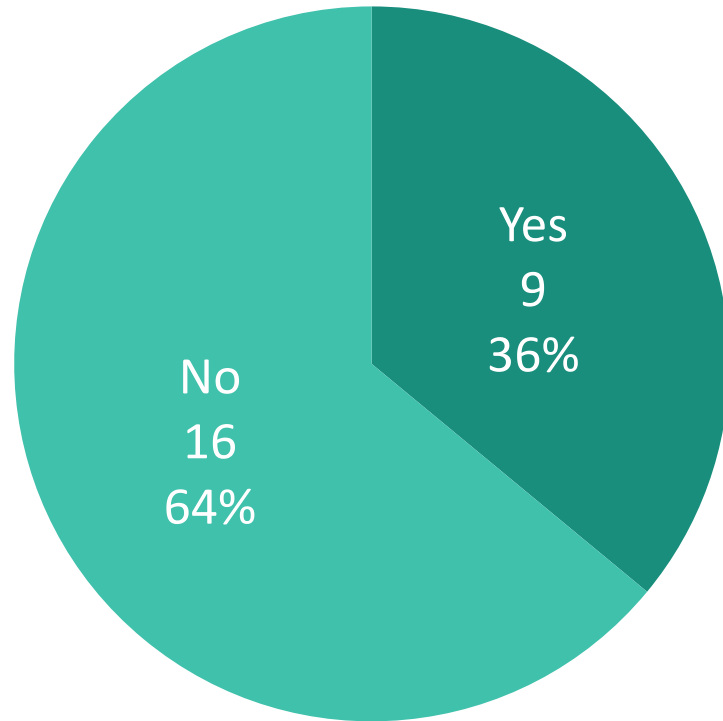
Respondents considered requirements to hold a EAHL to be appropriate



Does current training sufficiently ensure that new technicians understand how to prevent extinguishing agent losses and discharges?



Findings - Training



Less than half (36%) of full-licensed fire protection technicians had sought additional training in the past five years

Findings - Training

Preferred training modes

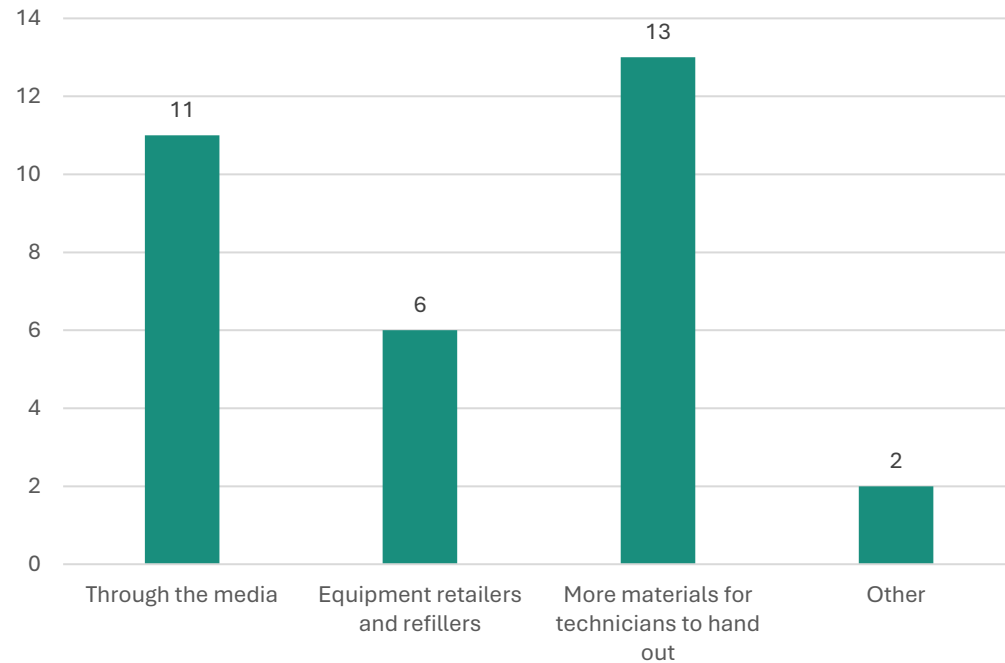
Accredited courses/post-trade training	Webinars run by the Department, FPIB or industry	Self-study e.g. newsletters, magazines, online research	Short online awareness raising courses	Other
14	6	8	4	4

Barriers to training

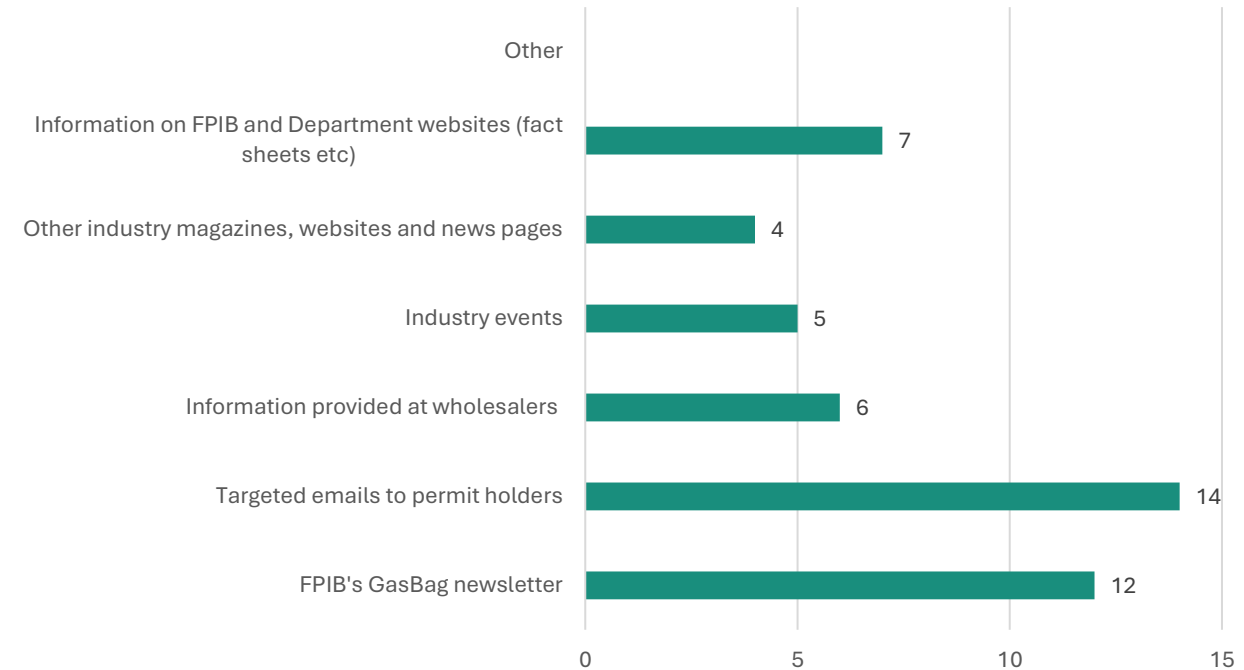
Access/availability of training	Cost of training	Duration of training	Time off the tools	Don't know	Other
14	18	8	11	1	2

Findings - Communication

Preferred means for the FPIB and department to engage with consumers



Preferred communication channels for respondents



Fire Protection Survey

Key Takeaways:

- Unlicensed and out-of-scope work is viewed by industry as the primary compliance risk.
- The absence of mandatory continuous professional development requirements means technician skills may not keep pace with evolving technologies.
- The industry newsletter, 'GasBag', and 'targeted emails' are the preferred communications methods.



Contact us

Henry Coles

Henry.Coles@dcceew.gov.au

Luke Bicket

Luke.Bicket@dcceew.gov.au

Fire Protection team

Fire.Protection@dcceew.gov.au

