R-22 is being phased out worldwide because of its harmful effects on the ozone layer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set January 1, 2020 as the date when R-22 becomes illegal to import or manufacture in the United States.

What Does the R-22 Phase Out Mean for Maintenance & Repairs?
The R-22 phase out date means that after January 1, 2020, only reclaimed and previously-produced R-22 refrigerant will be available for recharging a R-22 unit.

In the lead up to 2020, R-22 can still be used in repairs and maintenance. But, the supplies of R-22 are already shrinking. The closer it gets to 2020, the smaller the global supply of R-22 will be available. This will lead to the costs of the refrigerant to soar—making once routine repairs now cost prohibitive.

Is R-22 Still Available?
The EPA is phasing out R-22, but it is still available for purchase if it was manufactured before December 31, 2019. Recycled/reclaimed R-22 will also still be available. EPA expects that reclaimed and previously-produced HCFC-22 will be available well after 2020 to service and maintain equipment, but the price and availability may change.

Please log-on to supplyHQ.com or call 866.630.6747 for your local price & availability.

How the Phase Out Affects You.
It is important to keep in mind that the production — not use — of R-22 is being phased out.
You are not required to stop using R-22 air conditioners or replace existing equipment.

http://www.phaseoutfacts.org/App_Content/PhaseOutFacts/files/equipmentOwners/RefrigerantsAndYourAC_System.pdf

Why the Phase Out?
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) also are ozone-depleting substances used extensively in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment manufactured and installed today. In response to these environmental concerns, no new or imported R-22 will be allowed in the U.S. on or after December 31, 2019.

Are There “Alternative” Options?
Yes, these are commonly referred to as a “drop-in” replacement. Be aware that if an AC or heat pump repairman performs a faulty retrofit, there is a chance that your system’s warranty may not cover the damages. You should consult your product manufacturer’s warranty to see if it would remain in effect. Additionally, using any other refrigerant than what is listed on the unit nameplate voids the safety certification of the system.

FAQs for Technicians and Contractors: https://www.epa.gov/ods-phaseout/technicians-and-contractors-frequent-questions
Questions and Answers About R-22A Safety: https://www.epa.gov/snap/questions-and-answers-about-r-22a-safety

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