

CASE STUDY

Central Pier Pre-Demolition: Safe and Efficient Refrigerant Recovery

BACKGROUND

About the Customer

A specialist in air conditioning system installations working on projects ranging from small air conditioning refurbishments to multi-storey buildings and manufacturing plant projects.

About A-Gas

A-Gas is a world leader in the supply and lifecycle management of refrigerants and associated products and services. Through its high-quality recovery, reclamation, and repurposing processes, A-Gas captures refrigerants and fire protection gases for future re-use or safe destruction, preventing harmful release into the atmosphere.

For over 30 years, A-Gas has supported its clients and partners on their environmental journey by supplying lower global warming gases and actively increasing the circularity of the industries it serves, building a sustainable future.

CHALLENGE

Consisting of multiple restaurants and function centres, Central Pier, located in Melbourne, Australia, was due to be demolished. Prior to the commencement of the major demolition works, gas with a high global warming potential (GWP) needed to be safely recovered from various decommissioned air conditioning and refrigeration systems within those buildings to prevent its release into the atmosphere. Vehicles or heavy machinery were strictly prohibited on Central Pier due to the vulnerability of the site. It was essential that the recovery was completed efficiently and to local regulations to meet tight project timeframes.

AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Preventing the release of refrigerant from various decommissioned systems into the atmosphere.
- Recovering gas from hard-to-access systems due to site vulnerability.
- Tight demolition project timelines.

Benefits

- Successful recovery of high Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerant from multiple systems helped client meet their environmental and compliance obligations.
- Mobility of high-speed recovery equipment enabled gas to be recovered efficiently, without compromising safety.
- Project completed within the specified tight timeframe to align with the demolition schedule.



"Safely removing refrigerant gas from decommissioned systems is a critical step before major demolition works can commence. We are pleased that A-Gas Rapid Recovery's expertise was able to assist our client in meeting their environmental and compliance obligations, as well as tight project timeframes."

Daniel Tanaskovic

Sales and Operations Manager,
A-Gas Rapid Recovery, Australia

SOLUTION

A-Gas Rapid Recovery® was commissioned to recover a mix of high-GWP refrigerant gas from various systems across the Central Pier site. Those systems included refrigerators, split air conditioning units, split ducted units, package air conditioning, post-mix and ice machines.

Rapid Recovery is an on-site high-speed recovery service that can recover refrigerant up to 10 times faster than traditional methods.

Trucks are custom-fitted with fully mobile recovery equipment to access high-risk and difficult-to-reach areas. Hoses up to 75 metres long enabled the Rapid Recovery technician to safely recover refrigerant without having to bring the truck onto the pier.

The client was provided with locally compliant documentation including a detailed certificate showing the type and quantity of the recovered refrigerant. It also showed the Carbon Dioxide-equivalent (CO₂e) emissions avoided by ensuring waste refrigerant is responsibly recovered.



RESULTS

The safe and efficient recovery of refrigerant gas from decommissioned systems prior to demolition works prevented the release of gas into the atmosphere. This was a critical part of the pre-demolition process ensuring the recovery of refrigerant gas fully complied with local regulations and environmental obligations. Recovered refrigerant has been transported back to A-Gas' facility for analysis and processing.

The project was completed within the specified tight timeframe to align with the demolition schedule.

CONCLUSION

This project highlighted the importance of efficient recovery of refrigerant while meeting environmental, safety and compliance standards.

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