



Automotive and Bodyshop Competence Awards

Recovery and Handling of Mobile Automotive Refrigerant



Issue	Date	Details of change
1.1	December 2025	Added additional information to the accreditation overview
		Added updates from the National Occupational Standards 2025
		Removed content from Prerequisites and put into the Centre Guidance
		Rebranded document



Accreditation Overview

This accreditation is for technicians which are required to operate Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) systems which contain Fluorinated gas refrigerants (F-gas). Technicians who demonstrate their competence and achieve the accreditation will be certificated in compliance with the basic requirements of the current UK regulations.

This certification programme will assess the technicians:

- > knowledge and skills in the recovery and handling of F-gas refrigerants from automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC) systems
- > ability to correctly interpret legislative and organisational requirements, and procedures

This accreditation is mapped to the National Occupational Standards (IMIMET08 Handle Automotive Refrigerants) which were approved in March 2025 and are scheduled for review in March 2028. These standards cover:

- > the recovery, flushing and recharging of F-gas and other refrigerants associated with automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC) and climate control systems.
- > leak detection and rectification of any leaks.

The types of vehicles covered by the accreditation are:

- > goods vehicles weighing less than 3.5 tonnes
- > passenger vehicles with 8 seats or fewer

Practical Assessment Requirements

The technician must be able to demonstrate:

- > using the appropriate personal protective equipment when handling F-gas and other refrigerants
- > supporting removal and replacement activities by referring to:
 - > vehicle and gas related technical data
 - > manufacturer's guidance
 - > removal and replacement procedures
 - > health, safety and legal requirements
- > that the tools and equipment required are calibrated and in a safe working condition to meet manufacturer's and legal requirements

- > selecting and using the correct tools and equipment to identify refrigerant type and capacities
- > selecting and using the correct tools and equipment for recovery, flushing and recharging of refrigerants
- > carrying out all refrigerant recovery, flushing and recharging activities following:
 - > recognised safe working methods
 - > manufacturers' instructions
 - > your workplace procedures
 - > health, safety and legal requirements
- > working in a way which reduces the risk of any refrigerant emissions
- > carrying out suitable checks and any necessary rectification activities to ensure the recharged system is free from leaks
- > collecting and transferring waste materials to comply with current legislation and workplace policies
- > completing work records accurately, in the format required and promptly pass them to the relevant person(s)

Knowledge Assessment Overview

The knowledge assessment is set by Skills and Education Group; it is a centre invigilated online assessment which has 25 multiple-choice questions which are selected at random.

Please note that technicians must achieve 70% in the legislative and organisational requirements and procedures section and 60% in the tools and equipment and operating principles section to achieve a pass. Failure to do so will require a resit of the full online assessment, not just the failed section(s). Any candidate that is referred must be prevented from continuing with the skills (practical) assessment.

The maximum time allowed to complete the assessment is 50 minutes and the questions assess the knowledge from across the breadth of the criteria in the following way:



Subject	Number of questions	Min % Required
Legislative and organisational requirements and procedures.	7	70%
Selecting and using appropriate tools and equipment.	6	60%
Operating principles, functions and types of automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC) systems.	12	

Knowledge Assessment Requirements

Legislative and organisational requirements and procedures

The technician must know and understand:

- > the health, safety and environmental regulations relating to the handling of F-gas and other refrigerants within automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC)
- > how the vehicle is powered and the associated health and safety risks
- > the legal requirement to maintain and process appropriate F-gas records
- > workplace procedures for:
 - > the referral of problems related to refrigerant handling
 - > completion of work records
- > the importance of selecting, using and maintaining the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling F-gas and other refrigerants
- > how to safely dispose of or recycle refrigerant components in line with
- > environmental legislation

Selecting and using appropriate tools and equipment

The technician must know and understand:

- > know how to select, check and use all tools and equipment required to recover, flush and recharge F-gases and other refrigerants within automotive mobile air conditioning and climate control systems
- > know how to use equipment to identify the type of gas removed

All the items listed below form part of the knowledge and practical assessment.

Tools and equipment are:

- > hand tools
- > special purpose equipment

- > general workshop equipment
- > air conditioning recovery plant
- > refrigerant identifier
- > sealing equipment

Operating principles, functions and types of automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC) systems.

The technician must know and understand:

- > the operating principles and functions of automotive mobile air conditioning (MAC) and climate control units containing F-gas refrigerants, including alternative fuelled vehicles
- > the types of refrigerants used in automotive systems and their properties and characteristics
- > the impact of F-gas emissions on the environment in relation to their global warming potential and climate change
- > the hazards associated with different air conditioning systems
- > the procedures for the safe handling of F-gas and other refrigerants when recovering, flushing and recharging automotive mobile air conditioning units
- > how to work in a way that minimises the risk of any refrigerant emissions
- > how to check air conditioning systems for gas leaks and rectify leakage
- > how to handle refrigerant cylinders
- > the methods of storing removed mobile air conditioning (MAC) parts and the importance of storing them correctly

Prerequisites

To be eligible to undertake this Accreditation the candidate must meet all prerequisites as stated in the Centre Guidance document.

Knowledge Assessment Requirements

The assessment is accessed through our online platform, and you are required to complete an invigilation form.