

THE MONITOR — September 2026

The A2L deadlines just moved... Here's what changed, what didn't, and what it means if you're planning a cold room this year.



1 • THE BRIEF:

EPA just rewrote the refrigerant timeline

If you've been racing to get a refrigeration project commissioned under the AIM Act's deadlines, today's headlines may be welcome news:

In May, the EPA finalized changes to its Technology Transitions rule that extend several of them. Cold storage warehouse systems now have until January 1, 2032, to meet the strictest GWP limits, with an interim 700-GWP ceiling in the meantime; supermarket-style systems and remote condensing units were extended to 2032 as well, under an interim 1,400-GWP limit.

What didn't change: the phasedown itself. HFC supply keeps shrinking on schedule, existing systems can still be serviced, and which limits apply to a lab or research cold room depends on how the system is categorized. Moreover, regional mandates differ, making it even more important than ever to find experts you can trust.

Our take: extended deadlines are schedule relief, not a reason to design backward. TriMark Scientific has shipped A2L-compliant refrigeration as standard on new rooms since before the original deadlines. Rest assured, TriMark CERs built now won't need revisiting in 2032. [Link: [EPA Technology Transitions final rule page](#)]

2 • ASK AN ENGINEER

"Our existing cold room runs on R-448A. Do the new rules mean we have to replace it?"

No. The GWP limits apply to new systems, keyed to when a system is commissioned — existing rooms can be operated, serviced, and repaired through their useful life. Two things are worth watching: refrigerant prices will keep climbing as the HFC phasedown tightens supply, and if a repair grows into a full system replacement, the new limits apply. If your room is 15+ years old, the math often favors a planned A2L retrofit over an emergency one.

Have a question for next month? Ask below or write to Scientific@trimarkusa.com.

3 • FROM THE FIELD: Growth rooms that simulate a season on demand

When Oregon State University renovated Cordley Hall, its researchers needed plant growth rooms that could reproduce regional and seasonal conditions on command; full-spectrum light at equal intensity for plants anywhere from 24 to 72 inches below the canopy, with temperatures held to ± 0.5 °C across a 10–40 °C range. Conventional growth-room lighting couldn't do all of it at once. Here's how our team solved it, with the help of a trusted partner, and what it means for any facility running long-duration plant research. [Link: [Read the full case study → OSU](#)]

4 • MEET OUR TEAM



Kristen Fisher, TriMark Scientific CER Project Engineer - Design

With over ten years of commercial interior design experience, Kristen brings her vast knowledge of architecture and design to the controlled environment team. Her varied background spans mission-critical, hospitality, entertainment, foodservice, and education projects. Her wide-ranging experience allows her to approach projects with unique and creative solutions. Kristen is client-focused and strives to deliver high-quality projects that keep clients coming back, again and again.

"All design work is, by nature, creative. It involves the development of something new, something that did not exist before." - John F. Pile

Planning a controlled environment project, or have a question you'd like to share? Reply here or write to Scientific@trimarkusa.com Most reader questions are answered in the next month's issue.

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