

TECH TIPS

JOHNSEN'S

FREEZE 12[®]

EIGHTH IN A SERIES

When converting/retrofitting R-12 A/C systems over to any alternative refrigerants like Johnsen's Freeze 12 or R-134a, it is important to comply with all EPA SNAP (Significant New Alternatives Policy) guidelines. A few of the more common requirements include the removal of all existing R-12, installation of unique fittings and a new service label. A commonly overlooked requirement is installation of a High Pressure Cutout Switch if the A/C system being converted/retrofitted contains a High Pressure Relief Valve. However, if the system is not equipped with a High Pressure Relief Valve, the High Pressure Cutout Switch is not required.

If a High Pressure Cutout Switch is determined to be necessary, it must be installed in the high side line of the A/C system. A typical installation location would be somewhere on the hot gas line between the compressor discharge and the inlet of the condenser or on the liquid line between the condenser outlet and the inlet of the expansion device (orifice tube or expansion valve). Once the switch is installed, it must be wired into the A/C system so that the compressor clutch is disabled in the event the switch is opened due to excessive high side pressures. All the necessary parts, the High Pressure Cutout Switch, electrical connectors and "saddle clamps" (that will enable the installation of a High Pressure Cutout Switch on a line where there is no fitting), are available from local A/C parts distributors.