

SKILL TRAINING OF RAC SERVICE TECHNICIANS UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) have agreed to jointly undertake upskilling and certification of 100,000 refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) service technicians on good servicing practices and knowledge of alternative refrigerants to ozone-depleting chemicals. The project will be funded under the Skill India Mission - Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Need for the Project:

India has been witnessing high growth in the air-conditioning (AC) market, which is expected to grow fivefold by 2030 from the existing stock of 35 million. Refrigerants used in ACs are either Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) or have extremely high Global Warming Potential (GWP). Refrigerants leak out of ACs during normal operation and due to poor servicing practices by AC service technicians, causing adverse impacts to the environment.

Of the 200,000 estimated technicians in the country, the majority are semi or unskilled. Given that around 50% of refrigerant consumption is happening in the servicing sector, training of technicians on proper servicing practices to reduce leakages can have significant environmental benefits. This training would also benefit technicians since the training would include safety practices and would increase their employability within the formal sector.

Salient Features of the Project:

- Project jointly proposed by the Ozone Cell, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Electronic Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI).
- Updation of National Occupation Standards, training material and post-training resources in line with Montreal Protocol.
- Training of trainers to build a pool of qualified trainers.
- Training of 100,000 technicians on good service practices and safety practices and technician assessment and certification as per the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Project Outcomes:

- Better awareness of safety and environmental practices in RAC servicing by technicians.
- Reduced consumption of refrigerants among trained technicians.
- Increased number of certified technicians who can seek employment in the formal sector.

Proposed Timeline:

All 100,000 technicians to be trained in one (1) year (excluding months of April, May and June due to this being the peak season for technicians).

Each training course is for 3 days, including hands-on practical training and assessment at training centres across the country (112 training centres). Each batch would comprise of 18-20 technicians.

