

December 14, 2010

Mr John Ramsay (Chair)
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanics Regulator Working Group
COAG National Licensing Taskforce
GPO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear John,

RE: National Occupational Licence - RAC Industry

We write to you regarding the important matter of the National Occupational Licence - RAC Industry.

As a single, united group representing the interests of a range of professions and individuals within the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) industry, we believe the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) is best placed to host the national occupational licence for our sector.

A truly national, independent body that counts a substantial slice of the industry among its membership, the ARC boasts established relationships with key stakeholders, and has a demonstrated track record of delivering an effective licensing function across a diverse industry.

As the ARC already administers the self-funding Environmental Licence for Refrigerant Handling to approximately 60,000 individuals and 20,000 businesses, the ARC is in a unique position: it has the expertise, the structure and considerable experience absolutely necessary to host a national licensing scheme in an industry that employs many thousands of professionals across Australia.

This scheme, as administered by the ARC, has developed key performance indicators that are reported to the Federal Government.

The ARC has the necessary infrastructure in place to deliver a National Occupational Licence for the RAC industry. It has the support of key industry bodies and training, and as such is uniquely positioned to take on board the national licence-issuing function. Indeed, such a role is a natural and logical evolution of its current function.

It would be extremely unfortunate to see a duplicate parallel system established, involving substantial additional cost and overlapping functions.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this in more detail at an appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Wilkinson
CEO
Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH)

on behalf of:

Steve Anderson
CEO
Refrigerants Australia (RA)

Bernie Bugdalski
President
Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers' Association (AREMA)

Ian Strangroome
President
Vehicle Air Conditioning Specialists of Australasia (VASA)

David Harpley
Executive Director
Appliance Industry Association (AIA)

Kevin O'Shea
President
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Contractors Association NSW (RACCA)

Larry Moore
CEO
National Electrical and Communications Association SA (NECA)

