

The 3-Minute Guide to The Fifteen-Pound Line

THE NUMBER YOUR TECHS
ALREADY WRITE DOWN,
AND NOBODY EVER ADDS UP





The Number

IT WAS NEVER MISSING

Where the pounds actually live: Every time a tech tops off a cooler the amount goes on the ticket. It has been recorded correctly for years. What has never existed is a running total:

1

ON THE TICKET

The tech writes the pounds at the machine, on his knee, the same way every time. That part of the job has never been the problem.

2

IN THE DRAWER

The ticket is filed. Nothing reads it again. The number is captured and immediately stops being useful to anyone.

3

NOWHERE ADDED

No page in the building says how much went into one cooler this year. The data is complete and the answer is still unavailable.

The Big Fix difference: The pounds attach to the machine they went into, the day the ticket closes. Nobody in the office opens a ticket.

1





The Rule

WHAT CHANGED ON 1 JANUARY

The threshold breakdown: Leak-repair requirements used to begin at a 50-pound charge under Section 608. The final rule published 11 October 2024 (89 FR 82682) took effect 1 January 2026 and moved that line to 15 pounds:

1

FIFTY TO FIFTEEN

Equipment that was never on anyone's compliance radar is now fully covered. The machines did not change; the line moved underneath them.

2

IT BINDS THE OWNER

The duty sits with whoever owns the equipment, not the contractor servicing it. Your customer carries it, and most of them do not know yet.

3

TWENTY PER CENT

Commercial refrigeration triggers at a 20% annual leak rate. Calculating it needs the charge size and every pound added, which is the record nobody keeps.

What it costs: EPA settled with a national grocer in 2016 for \$500,000 across 453 stores: unrepaired leaks AND inadequate servicing records. The paperwork was half the finding.

2





The Machine

WHAT ACTUALLY RUNS

Workflow breakdown: It files nothing, contacts no agency and answers to no inspector. It changes what the shop can see before somebody outside the shop asks:

1

IT READS

The tickets your techs already close. No new app for the truck, no second place to type a number, no change to the visit.

2

IT WATCHES

The running twelve-month total per piece of equipment, and the day one crosses the line it says so, while the leak is still cheap to chase.

3

IT STOPS

If a unit's charge size was never recorded the page prints CANNOT CALCULATE and leaves it blank. It does not estimate its way to a number.

The outcome: When the customer asks for a year of refrigerant records the answer already exists. Nobody spends a day in the filing cabinet building it.

3





The Gate

THE SEQUENCE, IN FULL

Gate breakdown: Every step is named, and the last one is a person. This is the whole chain, in order — there is no step after the signature and no way to skip to it:

1

A TICKET CLOSES

A tech adds refrigerant and writes the pounds on the ticket, the way he already does. Nothing new to type, nothing new to learn.

2

THE POUNDS ATTACH

The pounds are read off that ticket and added to the running twelve-month total for that one piece of equipment. Theu

3

IS IT COVERED

Fifteen pounds and up is covered. A unit with no capacity on file prints CANNOT CALCULATE instead of a total.

4

IT WATCHES THE LINE

The day a unit crosses fifteen pounds, the shop hears about it — while the leak is still cheap to chase and there is still time to repair it inside the

5

A PERSON DECIDES

The count runs on its own. What a customer is told about it, and when, is decided by somebody here who has read it first.

The rule: Nothing sends, files or closes itself. The workflow prepares the decision; a named person makes it.

4

opens a ticket.



When It Is Wrong

BECAUSE SOMETIMES IT WILL BE

Failure breakdown: Every workflow is wrong sometimes. What matters is whether it tells you, and whether it can act on its own while it is wrong. Ours is built so the answer to the second is no:

1

IF THE CAPACITY IS MISSING

The line prints CANNOT CALCULATE and stops there. It does not estimate its way to a number, so that unit carries no total until a capacity is on file.

2

IF THE TICKET IS THIN

It never counts a pound it cannot point at a ticket for. What a tech did not write down stays off the total instead of being filled in from memory.

3

IF THE RULE MOVES AGAIN

Every page prints the rule version and the date that text was verified. The date is there so you can see how old the check is, not so you can assume it is still current.

4

IF YOU WANT THE WORD COMPLIANT

It will not print it. It counts pounds against tickets and shows how close a unit sits to the fifteen-pound line — it certifies nothing, and it files nothing with

Why this page exists: We could not find a competitor in this trade publishing a failure path. We would rather print ours than have you discover it.

5

Thanks for reading.

THE WORKFLOW FILM, THE SPEC SHEET AND THIS GUIDE ALL PRINT FROM ONE BRIEF.

PRODUCED BY

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FOR

NEW ENGLAND HOME-SERVICES CONTRACTORS

The audit is free, and it produces this guide again for your shop — your records, your obligations, and the one thing worth fixing first.

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