# Bandon AC Replacement in 2026: What the New Refrigerant Rules Actually Change

*Existing systems can still be serviced, while complete new systems now face different refrigerant requirements and compatibility questions.*

BANDON, OR, UNITED STATES, September 9, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A change in refrigerant rules is changing the equipment offered for new residential air-conditioning systems, but it is not an order to replace every older unit in Bandon.

> “A refrigerant rule should not become a replacement notice. The useful question is whether an existing system can be serviced safely or a documented new system is the better choice for the home.”
>
> *Gabriel Martinez, General Manager of Alpha Heating & Air*

The distinction matters as homeowners review how their systems performed during the cooling season. Federal rules now limit the global-warming potential of refrigerants used in complete new residential split systems, while Oregon's current mechanical code includes provisions for equipment using newer refrigerant classes. Neither change makes a working legacy system automatically unusable.

What changed for a complete new system

For residential split systems installed after Jan. 1, 2026, federal technology-transition requirements generally move complete new equipment away from R-410A and toward refrigerants with a global-warming potential below the federal threshold.

Oregon's 2025 Mechanical Specialty Code became mandatory statewide on April 1, 2026. Its framework includes provisions for A2L refrigerants, a classification used by many of the lower-GWP systems now entering the market. Those provisions belong in the hands of trained installers and code officials; homeowners should not attempt refrigerant work themselves.

For a buyer, the practical change appears in the proposal. The indoor and outdoor equipment, refrigerant, controls, and required safety features should be identified as a compatible system rather than assembled from assumptions about an older setup.

What did not change for an existing system

EPA guidance says existing systems may continue to operate and be serviced through their useful lives. You may still use compatible refrigerant and components for legitimate repairs to existing equipment. A homeowner therefore should not accept a blanket claim that an older system has become illegal simply because new-system rules changed.

That does not mean every repair is available or economical. Condition, component availability, operating performance, and the total cost of continued service remain property-specific questions. The rule sets a boundary for new equipment; it does not make the repair decision for the homeowner.



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Three questions that clarify a proposal

First, ask whether the contractor is proposing a repair to the existing system or a complete replacement. The applicable equipment and refrigerant requirements depend on that boundary.

Second, ask for the model numbers and the specified refrigerant in writing. The indoor and outdoor components should be designed and listed to work together. A vague promise that one component will “work with” another is not the same as documented compatibility.

Third, ask what the price includes: removal of old equipment, code and permit work, startup checks, owner instructions, and warranty documentation. These details make competing bids easier to compare without turning unfamiliar refrigerant terminology into artificial urgency.

Homeowners considering AC installation and replacement can also ask how the proposed capacity was selected and how airflow and duct conditions will be checked. Refrigerant compliance is one part of a sound installation, not a substitute for proper system design.

Homeowners who choose repair after a system-specific evaluation may be eligible for Alpha Heating & Air's $50 Off Any Service Over $299 offer.

Alpha Heating & Air provides air conditioning services for Bandon homeowners who want a system-specific evaluation. For service or a replacement consultation, call 541-238-2973.

About Alpha Heating & Air

Alpha Heating & Air serves Bandon and surrounding Southern Oregon Coast communities with residential air-conditioning repair, maintenance, installation, and replacement services.

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