

# U-3ARC TRAINING WEBINAR N°31

# FLAMMABLE REFRIGERANTS Part 2

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# **Summary**

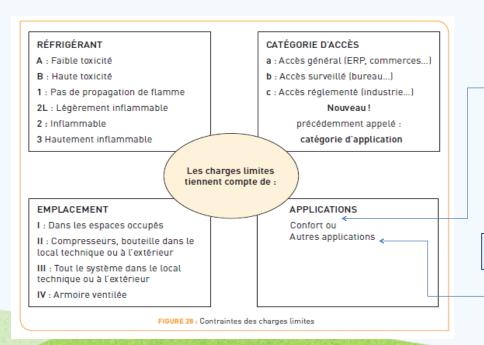
- 1/ Objectives
- 2/ Security classification
- 3/ Physical characteristics of alternative flammable refrigerants
- 4/ Applications of alternative refrigerants
- **5/Flammability properties of refrigerants**
- 6/ Use restrictions maximum load size
- 7/ Determination of the limit loads of flammable refrigerants
- 8/ Risk analysis
- 9/ Intervention procedures for flammable refrigerants





		LOWER TOXICITY	HIGHER TOXICITY
	NO FLAME PROPAGATION	<b>A1</b> R-11–R-14, R-22, R-113, R-114, R-115, R-134a, R-410A, R-449B, R-1234zd	<b>B1</b> R-10, R-21, R-123, R-764
(大学)	LOWER FLAMMABILITY	<b>A2</b> R-142b, R-152a <b>A2L</b> HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze	<b>B2</b> R-30, R-40, R-611, R-717
	HIGHER FLAMMABILITY	A3 B3 R-50, R-170, R-290, R-600a, R-441a, R-1270	

# Determination of limit loads for flammable refrigerants



 $M_{\text{max}} = 2.5 \text{ x LII}^{(5/4)} \text{ x h0 x A}^{(1/2)}$ 

Mmax < 20%\*LII\*volume du local



### Generality

#### The company must:

- Determine the tools needed for installation.
- Protect the installation site and teams:
- Collective protection: inform the client before intervention in addition to the prevention plan.
- Individual protection: equip your staff with the necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
   according to regulations (goggles, anti-projection mask, protective gloves, safety shoes, work clothing, etc.)
- Install equipment with qualified teams (brazing, fluid handling, etc.).
- > Be careful to use the right tools and equipment corresponding to the constraints of each fluid.

### Generality

More specifically for A3, A2 and A2L fluids, the company must:

- Check for ignition sources and ignition points (flames, sparks, etc.) electrical and/or electronic appliances);
- Work in a well-ventilated area;
- Avoid the build-up of electrostatic charge.
- Use tools that correspond to the "ATEX" (ATmosphere EXplosive), non-sparkling or explosion-proof standard for the following equipment:
  - the vacuum pump with non-sparking electrical components;
  - the charging station with non-sparking electrical components;
  - the recovery station, non-sparking electrical components;
  - the appropriate leak detector;
- Provide a suitable fire extinguisher nearby (ABC Powder)
- Use hoses to evacuate the gas outside the perimeter of intervention;
- Use an explosive meter to check for flammable fluids before responding.



Please note: Technician training in "Handling R290 and R600A Fluids – Propane and Isobutane" is mandatory. (Labour Code).



Risk analysis is an important preliminary action that must be carried out by **each of the actors in the life** cycle of refrigeration systems (from the one who designs the system to the one who is in charge of the disposal of the system and the one who carries out the maintenance).

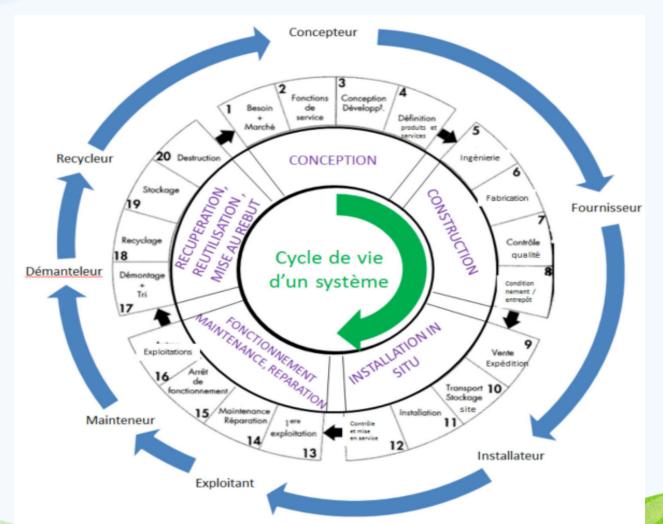
The NF EN 378:2017 standard does not explicitly mention the term risk analysis. On the other hand, it states that « the objective is to reduce the possible dangers of refrigeration systems and refrigerants for people, property and the » environment.

The NF EN 378:2017 standard does not specify the analysis format that must be used: it is up to the company to decide.

# The life cycle of a refrigeration installation



The figure above shows the different stakeholders during the life cycle of refrigeration equipment.





The description of the steps below is largely based on the NF EN ISO 12100 standard, which is referenced by the NF EN 378:2017 standard

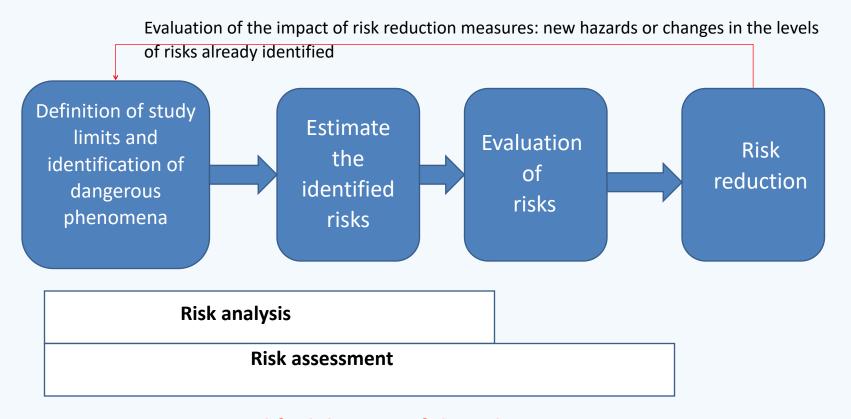


Figure: Simplified diagram of the risk management process according to the NF EN ISO 12100 standard



Definition of study
limits and
identification of
dangerous
phenomena

définition rigoureuse du périmètre d'étude est importante car elle conditionne les phénomènes dangereux qui seront identifiés.

L'identification d'un phénomène dangereux est le point de départ d'un scenario qui aboutit au dommage

La norme NF EN 378 : 2017 cite les termes de « phénomène dangereux » et de « situation dangereuse » qui permettent de décrire le scenario aboutissant au dommage :

✓ Le « phénomène dangereux » est une source potentielle de dommage.

✓ La ≪ situation dangereuse ≫ est une situation dans laquelle les personnes, les biens et l'environnement sont exposés au phénomène dangereux.

✓ Le « dommage » décrit les conséquences potentielles d'une situation dangereuse sur les les versonnes, les biens et l'environnement.



Estimate the identified risks Éstimer un risque consiste a définir l'occurrence et la gravité du dommage associé à chaque couple situation dangereuse/phénomène dangereux.

Un objectif important de la norme NF EN 378 : 2017 est de fournir au concepteur les facteurs-clés qui modulent ces deux paramètres.

Risque estimé

Occurrence dommage

Gravité dommage



# Evaluation of risks

L'évaluation des risques doit permettre d'atteindre deux objectifs :

- ✓ Décider quels sont les risques qui doivent être réduits.
- ✓ Si des réductions des risques sont mises en œuvre, vérifier qu'elles n'introduisent pas de phénomènes dangereux supplémentaires ou n'augmentent pas le niveau des autres risques.

Le ou les critères d'acceptabilité du risque ne sont pas fixés par la norme NF EN 378 : 2017. En revanche, il est nécessaire que des règles précises qui établissent si un risque doit être réduit soient prédéfinies. C'est à l'entreprise de les édicter.



si un risque n'est pas acceptable, il faut le réduire par la mise en œuvre d'actions de réduction à risque. L'ensemble des actions de réduction des risques est appelé «plan de maitrise des risques ».

Pour réduire le niveau d'un risque, il est possible de procéder de deux façons :

- √ diminuer la fréquence du risque ;
- √ diminuer la gravité du risque.

Risk reduction

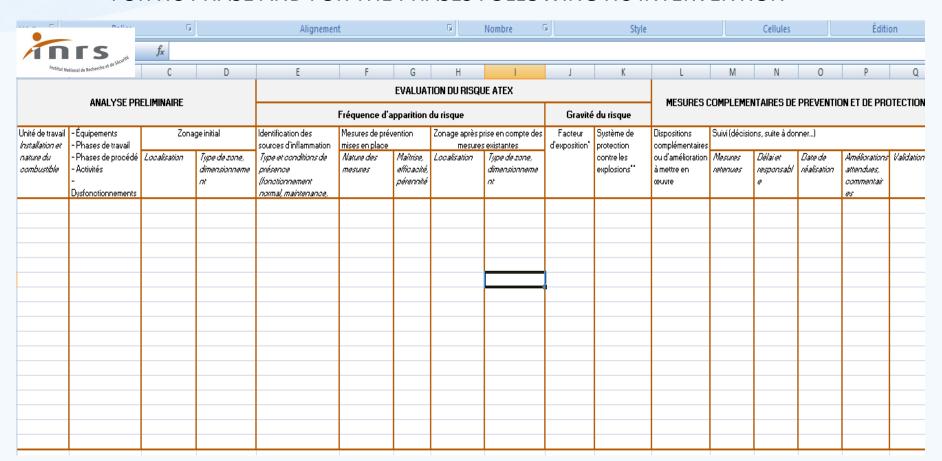
les leviers d'action possibles pour diminuer l'occurrence du risque sont :

- Supprimer ou limiter l'apparition des causes amenant à la situation dangereuse
- ❖ Eviter que la combinaison du phénomène dangereux et d'une cause amène à la situation dangereuse.
- ❖ Supprimer ou limiter l'apparition des causes faisant passer de la situation dangereuse au dommage.
- \* Eviter que la combinaison de la situation dangereuse et d'une cause provoque le dommage.

En revanche, il n'est pas toujours possible de réduire la gravite d'un dommage.



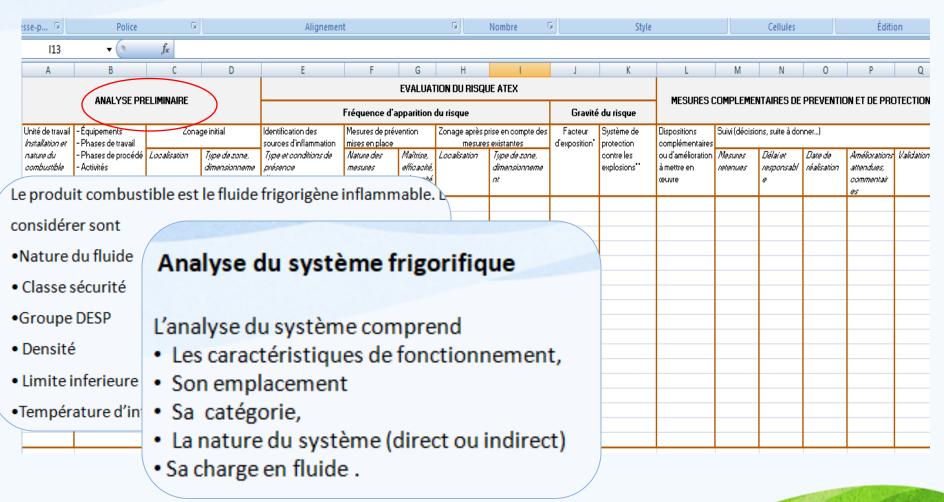
# EACH LIFE CYCLE STAKEHOLDER MUST PREPARE A RISK ANALYSIS FOR ITS PHASE AND FOR THE PHASES FOLLOWING ITS INTERVENTION



**Risk Assessment Matrix** 

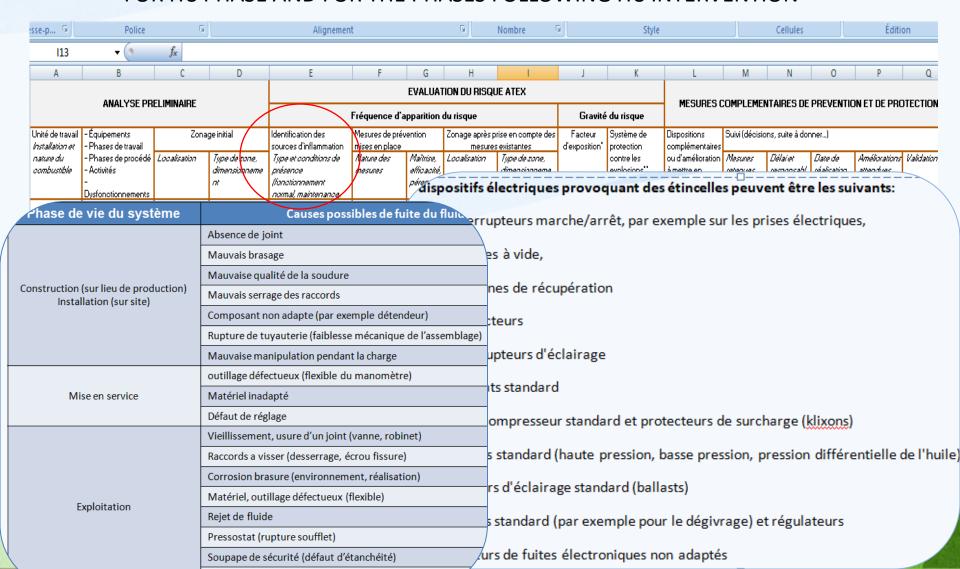


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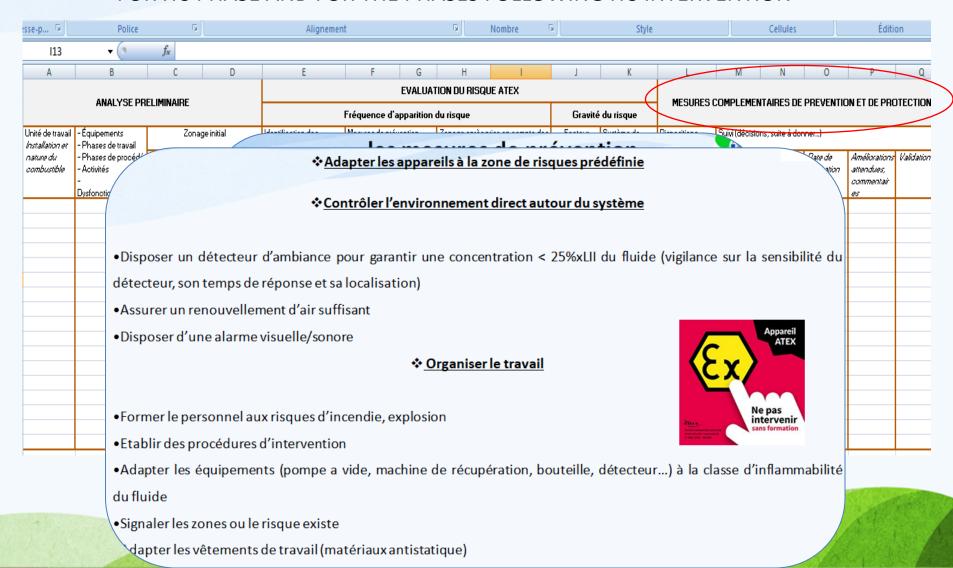


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# EACH LIFE CYCLE STAKEHOLDER MUST PREPARE A RISK ANALYSIS FOR ITS PHASE AND FOR THE PHASES FOLLOWING ITS INTERVENTION



# Example of risk analysis



### Basic data

Air conditioning unit with refrigerant HFC -32 (R32)				
Nature of the fluid	Refrigerant HFC -32			
Safety class	A2L			
DESP Group	1			
Lower flammability limit (kg/m3)	0.307 (13.3%)			
Practical limit (kg/m3)	0.061			
Ignition temperature (°C)	648			
Access category	b			
Location of the refrigeration system	Class II (the group in a technical room or outside)			
System classification	Direct relaxation			
Application	Comfort			

Life phase	Under phase of life (see note 2)	Phenome non dangerou s (see note 1)	n	Provoking cause the appearance of the situation dangerous	Provoking cause the passage of the situation dangerous at risk	Class of the location of the machine (from I to IV)	Risk	Measures decreasing the probability of occurrence of risk
Design/ Construc tion/ installati on	(asse mbly on the site)	Presence of R32 fluid classified A2L	leak of refrigera nt	* Welding or	Appearance of a flame lively (blowtorch)	Class II	* Fire hazard in the room	limite la charge de réfrigérant en cas de fuite dans la zone la plus petite et en fonction des mesures de sécurité et le positionnement de cette pièce dans le bâtiment.
			piping damaged * Partial breakage of a weld or assembly	Refrigerant leak beyond the limit authorized		<ul> <li>Risk of indisposition (dizziness, , drowsiness)</li> </ul>	* Installation of an ambient detector * Ensure minimum air renewal	
Functioni ng								

Life phase	Under phase of life (see note 2)	Phenom enon dangero us (see note 1)	Situation dangerou s	Provoking cause the appearance of the situation dangerousse	Provoking cause the passage of the situation dangerous at risk	Class of the location of the machine (from I to IV)	Risk	Measures decreasing the probability of occurrence of risk
Functioni ng	Use of the system	Refrigera nt A2L	Significant leak of A2L fluid	*Deterioration of a Joint *Rupture of a Piping * Opening of an unconnected valve	Presence of a source of ignition in the air reaching The LII	Class II	Inflammati on	* Verification of operation of the ventilation for normal conditions  * Voucher verification operation of the detection of fluid and emergency ventilation
Maintena nce Visit (leak repair)	Solder R32 leak in an unventila ted duct)	Refrigera nt A2L	Concentra tion of R32 too much important	Unventilated duct	No fire permit	No relevant	Fire	* Column ventilation Reminder of the importance of safety by the Employer * Wearing PPE * Presence of fire extinguisher
Maintena nce (replacem ent Compress or)	Solder compres sor		combinati on of fluid with oil during brazing	Soldering in a tight space	Anoxia in the presence of flame or fire		Anoxia in the presence flame or fire	No vacuum draw during of the operation for avoid contact with the flame and R32
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During maintenance work on a refrigeration system, there is a risk of a flammable atmosphere. All operators must be informed of this risk and must be able to prepare their intervention and act in complete safety.





Due to the flammability of refrigerant fluids, the equipment used for any fluid handling operation in a refrigeration circuit must be of

specific approved material



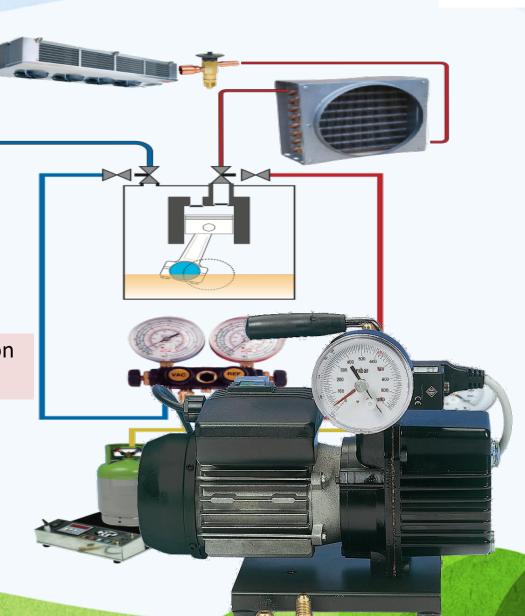
- Specific vacuum pump with protection on the entire electrical part (ATEX)













Due to the flammability of refrigerant fluids, the equipment used for any fluid handling operation in a refrigeration circuit must be specific approved equipment



- Recovery station specific to flammable refrigerants













### **Tools and handling precautions before intervention**

Due to the flammability of refrigerant fluids, the equipment used for any fluid handling operation in a refrigeration circuit must be of

specific approved material



- Specific recovery bottle for flammable refrigerants











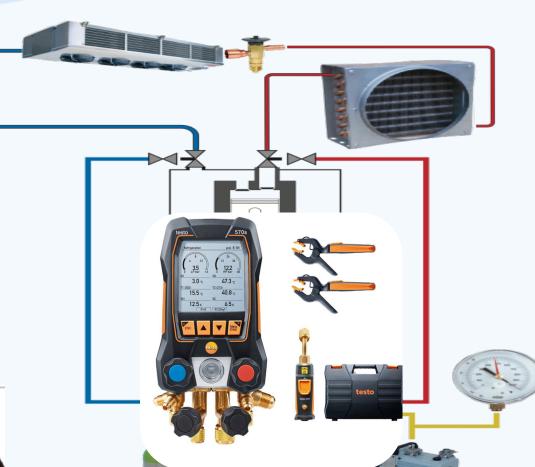
# **Tools and handling precautions before intervention**



Due to the flammability of refrigerant fluids, the equipment used for any fluid handling operation in a refrigeration circuit must be of

specific approved material









- The electronic pressure gauge or 4-way manifold (with flexibles) must be adapted to the refrigerants used (the thermodynamic characteristics of the hydrocarbons must be taken into account).

# **Tools and handling precautions before intervention**



Due to the flammability of refrigerant fluids, the equipment used for any fluid handling operation in a refrigeration circuit must be of

specific approved material



- Leak detector suitable for flammable refrigerants in terms of sensitivity.









- Define a safety perimeter of a few meters around the intervention zone and ensure the absence of flammable

materials or ignition sources in this zone



2

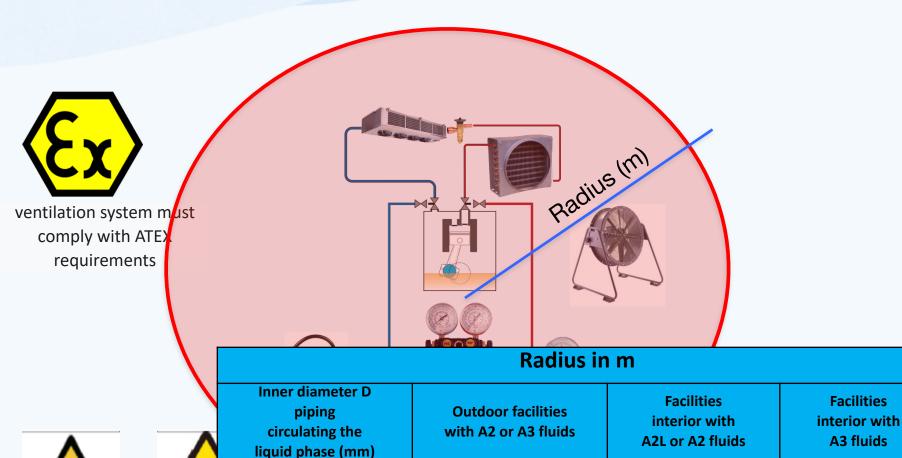
4

10

1

2

4



2

4

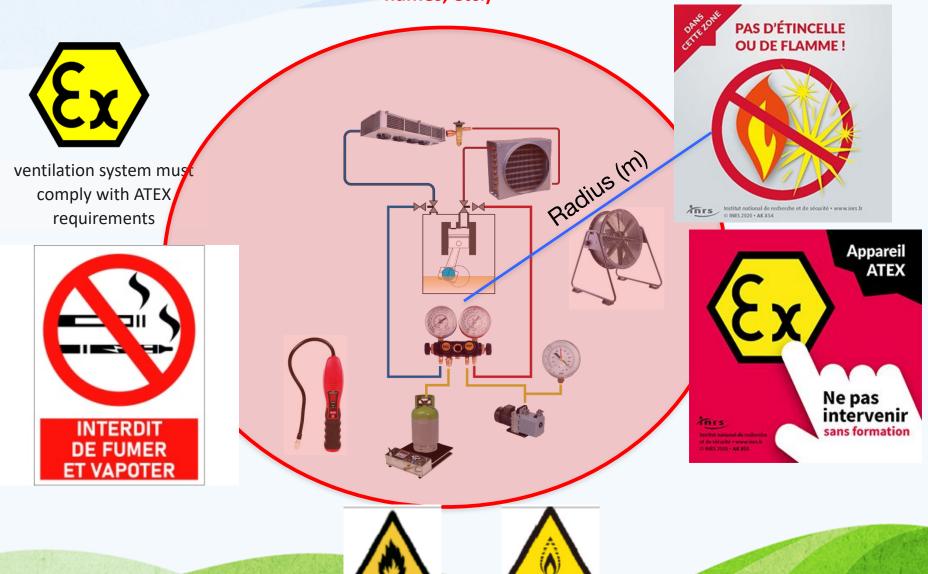
10

D ≤ 10

10 < D ≤ 20

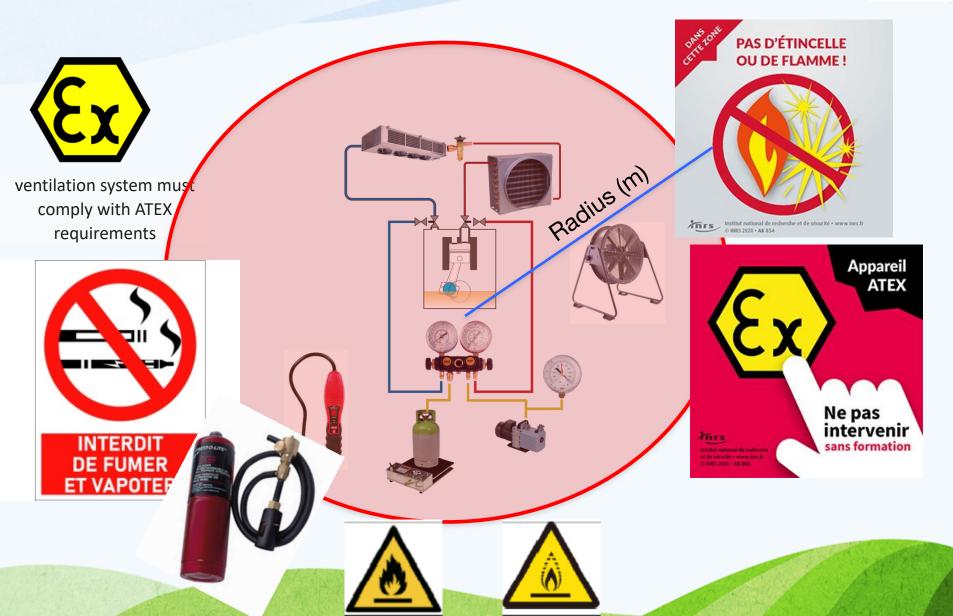
20 < D ≤ 50

- Signal, demarcate the work area to alert people of the danger (no cigarettes, no open flames, etc.)



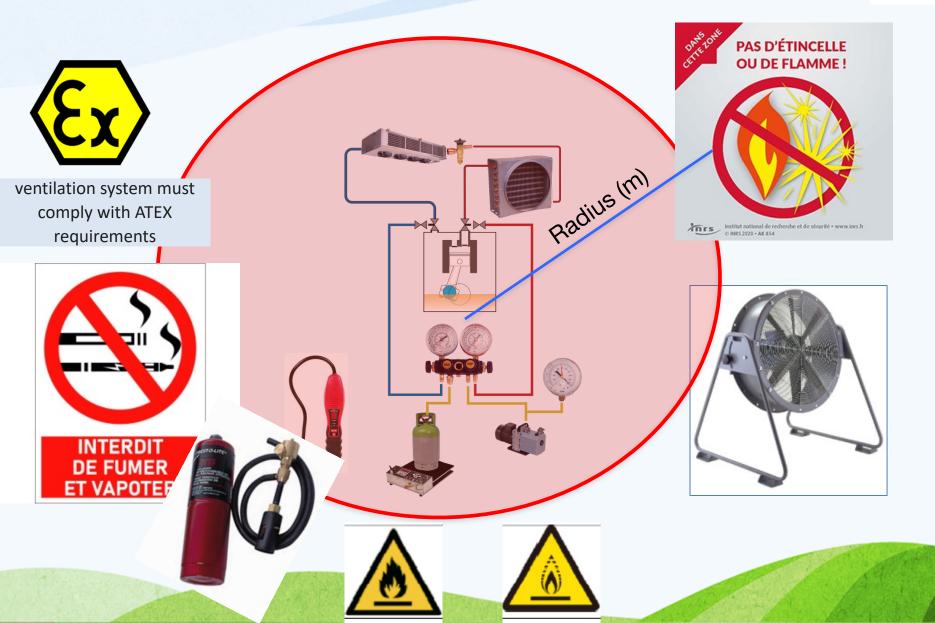
- Ensure the presence of a suitable fire extinguisher nearby





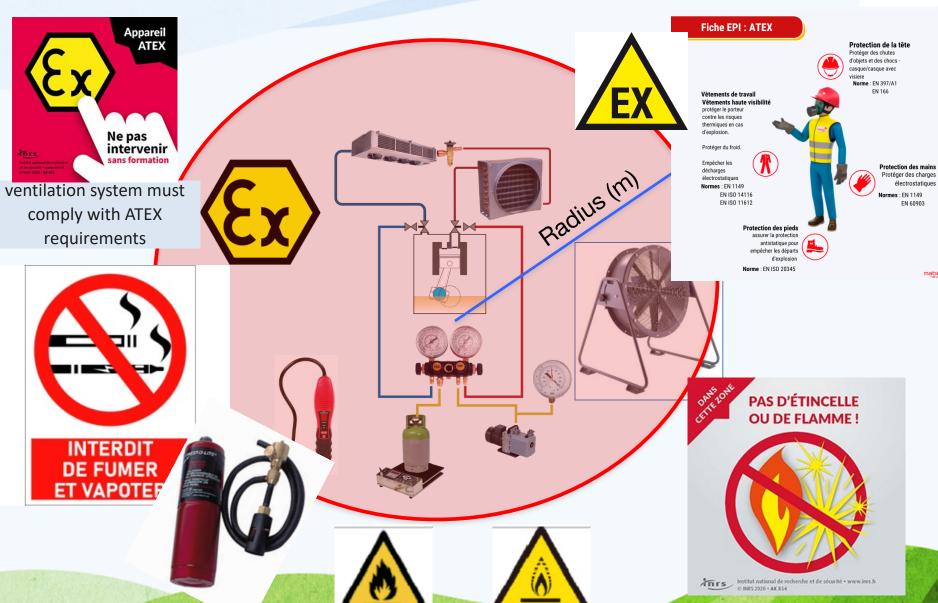


Be in a ventilated area





Have suitable work clothing.

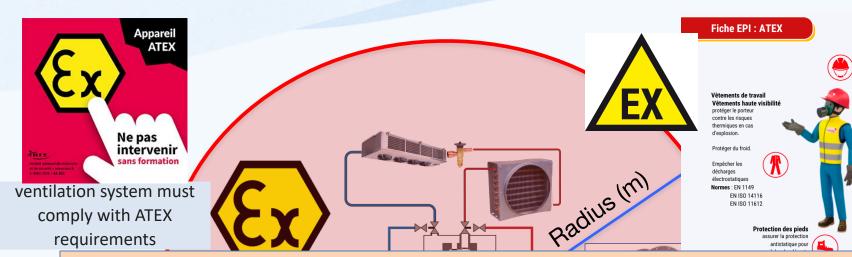




Protection des mains

Protéger des charges

Protection de la tête Protéger des chutes d'objets et des chocs casque/casque avec Norme : EN 397/A1



- Check the presence and operation of any safety devices in the work area: sensors and detection system, alarm, ventilation
- Switch off the installation before repair work

requirements

- Do not desolder or cut with a blowtorch any fluid piping and other elements of the refrigeration circuit before all the fluid has been eliminated and the circuit has been purged with dry nitrogen









assurer la protection

# Attention



the slightest carelessness can cost us our lives,

and even worse: freedom

Jacques Mesrine





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION