



PRESS RELEASE

Refrigerated Display Cases in Large-Scale Retail: One in Two Uses Natural Refrigerants

Legambiente presents the findings of a new study at Refrigera 2025

Bologna, November 6, 2025 – In Italy, 50% of the refrigerants used in refrigerated display cases in large-scale retail stores are natural, 48% are synthetic, and 2% fall into other categories. These are the findings of **the first nationwide survey on refrigerants and large-scale retail**, presented today by **Legambiente** at **Refrigera 2025**, the international trade fair for industrial, commercial, logistics, frozen food, and cryogenic refrigeration, taking place at BolognaFiere through tomorrow.

Italy's percentage of natural refrigerant use is particularly noteworthy, considering the European average stands at 30%. The survey analyzed 3,899 refrigerated display cases across 98 stores in six cities and regions.

"The adoption of natural refrigerants is rapidly increasing, driven by climate and regulatory pressures," said **Marco Mancini** from Legambiente's Scientific Office. "Today, Pfas (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are the 'new asbestos,' contaminating water and the food chain. We must all take an active role in promoting change based on the precautionary principle. In this context, the industrial and innovation sectors are making significant progress."

According to **Biagio Lamanna**, Head of Knowledge Center at **Carel Industries**, natural refrigerants are more common in hypermarkets and discount stores, while synthetic refrigerants still prevail in supermarkets. Geographically, the distribution is relatively balanced.

"Another aspect highlighted by the study concerns the impact of open versus closed refrigerated cabinets," said **Enrico Zambotto**, Refrigeration Engineering Manager at **Arneg**. "Closing the units leads to energy savings of up to 58%, and less energy means less CO₂. It is estimated that ten meters of closed refrigerated cases can save the equivalent of 10–12 trees per year. Each store thus

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becomes a small urban forest.”

Closing refrigerated display cases also improves product quality and freshness, reduces waste, and enhances visibility, as customers tend to spend more time browsing.

At Refrigera 2025, the **PR Planet Refrigeration Awards** ceremony also took place today, celebrating excellence and innovation throughout the refrigeration supply chain. Companies and projects were honored for achievements in technology, sustainability, design, and social responsibility.

As part of Applitech 2025—the trade fair dedicated to the manufacturing industry and the appliance and consumer electronics supply chain, organized by **A151 srl** in collaboration with **Senaf srl**—**Mauro Barchiesi**, President of **Confapi Industria Ancona**, emphasized that innovation in finished products originates from the subcontracting sector.

“SMEs have ensured the continuity of the Italian system by constantly finding better solutions,” said Barchiesi. “Today, many large companies merely assemble, but true innovation happens where things are made. We must defend our manufacturing industry, and to do so, design alone is not enough: the future of Made in Italy depends on the companies that produce.”

For more information about Refrigera and Applitech 2025, visit **www.refrigera.show** and **www.applitech.show**

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