

# 2026 Potato Business Summit

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2026  
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# Navigating HFC Regulations The AIM Act

What It Means for The  
North American Potato  
Storage Sector



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# Overview

## Regulatory context:

*HFCs (Hydrofluorcarbons) are synthetic gases, primarily used as refrigerants in refrigeration. These replaced ozone-depleting substances but are now being phased down because they are potent greenhouse gases regulated under international law*

- ▶ **The AIM Act (U.S.): U.S. law to reduce HFCs via quotas and technological innovation**
- ▶ **ODSHAR (Canada): Canadian framework aligning with global climate targets**
- ▶ **Impacts on Storage: Regulations affect refrigeration systems used in potato storage**
- ▶ **NAPSO Role: Help stakeholders navigate change and influence policy.**

# Regulatory Background

- ▶ **Kigali Amendment:**  
*Treaty obligating nations to phase down HFCs*
- ▶ **Canada & U.S. Commitment:**  
*Both adopted policies to meet Kigali targets*
- ▶ **Timelines:**  
*Reduction steps implemented in 2020 with a commitment to cut HFC by 85% by 2036 in stages.*

# AIM Act: Implications for Storage

- ▶ **Leak Detection:**

*Monitoring of refrigerant loss is mandated*

- ▶ **Reporting:**

*Contractors, Storage Owners, Refrigerant Suppliers must keep records and be prepared to submit reports*

- ▶ **Upgrades:**

*Facilities may need to replace legacy systems.*

# ODSHAR Overview (Canada)

- ▶ **Framework:**  
*Built into Canada's Environmental Protection Act*
- ▶ **Permitting:**  
*Controls entry and exit of HFCs through licensing*
- ▶ **Disposal:**  
*Encourages recovery and recycling of HFCs.*

# Key Similarities

- ▶ **Shared Goal:**  
*85% reduction target by 2036*
- ▶ **Enforcement:**  
*Permit/allocation systems regulate use*
- ▶ **Innovation:**  
*Incentivizes switch to greener refrigerants.*

# Key Differences

- ▶ **Legislation:**  
*AIM is a new act; ODSHAR modifies older law*
- ▶ **Economic Framing:**  
*U.S. emphasizes competitiveness;  
Canada environmental stewardship*
- ▶ **Regional Powers:**  
*U.S. states act independently;  
Canada is mostly federal*

# What this Means for Storage Operators

- ▶ **Compliance:**  
*Operators must stay current with evolving rules*
- ▶ **Investment:**  
*Storage Refrigeration systems may require updates rather than repairs. New systems will require new Refrigerants*
- ▶ **Training:**  
*Personnel must understand new expectations.*

# Industry Role Moving Forward



**Engage:** Collaborate with regulators and tech providers



**Adopt:** Embrace new cooling technologies



**Advocate:** Ensure storage realities are represented



**Educate:** Share updates and best practices with members.



**Support:** *Offer tools for evaluating compliance.*



**Represent:** *Bring grower concerns to policy discussions.*

## Questions & Follow-Up



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