



The South African Institute of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

www.sairac.co.za

Dear SAIRAC members

You are invited to our Cape Town Centre Technical Talk on Tuesday, 8th September 2026.

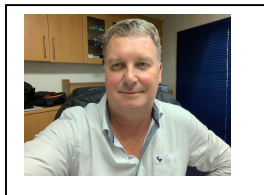
TOPIC: RECOVERY OF REFRIGERANTS and VACUUM PROCEDURE
presented by HENNIE BASSON

Hennie Basson has 38 years of experience in the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry. He is a qualified Refrigeration Mechanic (Industrial) and Electrician.

After becoming self-employed, Hennie recognised the serious shortage of suitably qualified artisans in the industry. His company subsequently introduced in-house training, which it has successfully provided for the past 20 years. This training has helped numerous candidates qualify as artisans through both the apprenticeship route and the Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) process, previously known as Section 28.

To further address the skills shortage and the need for properly trained HVAC&R personnel, Hennie established the privately owned **RAETECH Training Centre**. RAETECH is accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) as a Skills Development Provider and by the National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB) as a Trade Test Centre.

Hennie is registered with merSETA as an Assessor and Moderator and is also a registered NAMB Assessor and Moderator. He developed the knowledge, practical skills and workplace experience modules for the new Refrigeration Mechanic occupational qualification.



SYNOPSIS

The presentation will provide a practical overview of the correct procedures for recovering refrigerants and evacuating refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.

Refrigerant recovery is essential for protecting the environment, complying with applicable legislation and preventing the unsafe release of refrigerants into the atmosphere. The presentation will explain the purpose of refrigerant recovery, the equipment required and the correct recovery methods for different systems and refrigerants. It will also address the safe handling, identification, storage and labelling of recovered refrigerants.

The vacuum section will explain why evacuation is necessary before charging or recommissioning a system. Attendees will learn how moisture, air and other non-condensable gases affect system performance and reliability. The presentation will cover vacuum-pump selection, system preparation, the use of a micron gauge, deep and triple evacuation procedures, standing vacuum tests and the identification of leaks or remaining moisture.

Common mistakes made during recovery and evacuation will also be discussed, together with practical measures that improve safety, efficiency and system reliability.

Who should Attend

- Refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians
- Apprentice and learner refrigeration mechanics
- Qualified artisans requiring refresher training
- HVAC&R contractors and service personnel
- Technical supervisors and maintenance managers
- Training facilitators, assessors and moderators
- Facility and plant maintenance personnel
- Individuals responsible for refrigerant handling and environmental compliance

Attendees will gain

- A clear understanding of why refrigerants must be recovered and not vented
- Knowledge of the equipment required for safe refrigerant recovery
- An understanding of the different refrigerant recovery methods
- Guidance on safely handling, storing and labelling recovered refrigerants
- An understanding of the purpose and importance of system evacuation
- Knowledge of deep-vacuum and triple-evacuation procedures
- Practical guidance on the correct use of vacuum pumps and micron gauges
- The ability to perform and interpret a standing vacuum test
- An understanding of how moisture and non-condensable gases affect a system
- Awareness of common recovery and evacuation mistakes
- Improved knowledge of safe, environmentally responsible and compliant work practices

Venue: Parow Golf Club – Frans Conradie Road - Parow

Date & Time: 8th September 2026 @ 18h00 for 18h30

Snacks will be provided, and Cash Bar facility will be available

Please send **RSVP** to:

capetownsecretary@sairac.co.za

062 085 4054

on/by **7th September 2026** before **12h00**

Rozelle Steenkamp

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