

One of the biggest challenges in a vehicle a/c workshop is the safe and accurate tracing and repairing of refrigerant leaks.

While many methods for detecting leaks have been available, most have some disadvantages. Small leaks are difficult to locate and leak detection can only be carried out with the a/c systems filled. Sometimes conventional leak detection systems react to other external gases which results in wrong information and that makes the job difficult.

The LOKTRACE leak detection system which has been in use for many years combines all of the advantages of existing leak detection methods, and none of the disadvantages of most conventional methods.

With LOKTRACE, the a/c system is filled with a special gas known as LOKTRACE gas, a mix of 95 per cent nitrogen and 5 per cent hydrogen. It's non-toxic, not harmful to the environment and non-flammable.

The hydrogen is used as the tracer gas. A vehicle's a/c system is filled to a pressure of between 5 and 7 bar. Leaks can be localised with the aid of the LOKTRACER TLD.500 or TLD.1000 hydrogen leak detectors. The LOKTRACER reacts exclusively to hydrogen, which means that there are no cross-sensitivities.

Every leak leaves a trace



but not all detection systems can trace them



This makes leak detection extremely reliable. Hydrogen molecules are the smallest naturally occurring particles and escape from the tiniest of leaks. Consequently, the LOKTRACER can detect very small leaks. Since hydrogen is lighter than air, the hydrogen molecules rise and the tubes can easily be checked from above.

Once a leak is detected, the solder-free LOKRING tube connection system comes into play. Conventional methods such as soldering, welding or thread cutting are time consuming, cause damaging soiling and can lead to weak spots in the refrigerant circuit. A combination of the LOKRING and LOKCLIP makes it possible to connect a range of different materials to one another – without diminishing the quality of the connection.

The patented LOKRING system makes repairs to refrigerant lines both straightforward and inexpensive. Car manufacturers

have relied on this clean connection for many years, which explains why many vehicle a/c systems are equipped with LOKRING connections from the outset.

A long, hot summer is forecast for Australia, so now would seem to be the appropriate time to gear up for a busy a/c repair workload with the correct tools, knowledge and experience.

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