

Information and FAQs - Solstice[®] yf for the Aftermarket

Solstice[®] yf has been on the market since 2012, and its use continues to grow. Given this development and the fact that a first regular climate service is to be performed three years after a new car has been delivered, more and more garages offer climate servicing for mobile air-conditioning with Solstice[®] yf.

With the implementation of the EU MAC Directive, consistent standards for the servicing of automobile air-conditioning have been introduced for the first time.

Honeywell aims at supporting the aftermarket in its efforts to gradually adjust to the changes going along with the ongoing implementation of Solstice[®] yf in cars.

We have compiled a list of 10 frequently asked questions that garages and workshops might have around the servicing of car air-conditioning with Solstice[®] yf.

1. How exactly does a climate service with Solstice[®] yf work?

Together with Robinair, we created a brief video on the handling of Solstice[®] yf in the aftermarket. You can see this video here [Robinair Aftermarket video](#) .

2. How can leakages be detected?

Since Solstice[®] yf is also a fluorocarbon, the existing fluorocarbon leak detection equipment and techniques can be used to easily detect Solstice[®] yf refrigerant leaks.

3. What about charge losses?

Thanks to low leak rates and the ability to hold reserve charge, the impact on performance can be reduced.

4. There has been a public debate around Solstice[®] yf's safety. Is the refrigerant safe for use? And how can I make sure to handle it safely?

Extensive testing by several independent bodies has repeatedly confirmed that Solstice[®] yf is safe for use in automobiles. Although the properties of Solstice[®] yf refrigerant are very similar to those of HFC-134a, some education and training will be required to properly and safely service Solstice[®] yf systems to address the mild flammability of the refrigerant.

5. Why is Solstice[®] yf more expensive than HFC-134a? Will its price decrease?

Developing and marketing new sophisticated products is connected to significant investments and years of research and development. Hence, respective new products with far-reaching environmental benefits will always be more expensive than products that have been on the market for decades. The advantages of economies of scale of course also apply to Honeywell – it is basic economics that the more a product is used on a global scale, the less it will cost to supply this product. This will benefit our customers, their customers, as well as the aftermarket over the long-term.

6. What do repair parts and components for an automobile air-conditioning system that works with Solstice[®] yf cost – are they going to be more expensive?

The parts and components used in Solstice[®] yf refrigerant systems are similar or identical to those used in today's HFC-134a systems. The parts are mass produced in high volumes globally and are widely available at reasonable prices.

7. What period of use do you intend for Solstice[®] yf?

The usage period for Solstice[®] yf does not differ from the period of HFC-134a.

8. Do the timeframe or the scope of servicing differ from the timeframe and scope of the old refrigerant HFC-134a?

No, the scope of servicing as well as the timeframe for Solstice[®] yf do not differ from servicing HFC-134a systems.

9. Can vehicles with air-conditioning systems filled with HFC-134a also be equipped with Solstice[®] yf?

To equip an air-conditioning system with Solstice[®] yf instead of HFC-134a, only minor changes have to be made. However, it remains important that the right refrigerant for its respective air-conditioning system is used. Thus, systems for Solstice[®] yf may not be filled with HFC-134a. If the two refrigerants are mixed unintendedly, the mixture must professionally be removed and disposed. Climate service at a vehicle filled with Solstice[®] yf requires a sample recovery of the refrigerant prior to its exhaustion. This guarantees that Solstice[®] yf is not contaminated with other substances.

10. Do regulations exist for the handling of Solstice[®] yf in garages?

Yes, for the first time, standards for the servicing of automobile air-conditioning have been introduced.