

Danfoss Secop SLV15CNK / SLV15CNK.2 — Complete Technical Review & Replacement Guide

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What Is the Danfoss SLV15CNK?

If you've ever opened the back panel of a commercial chest freezer or a light commercial display case and found a compact, brushless compressor with a controller module attached to it, there's a good chance you were looking at a [Danfoss Secop SLV15CNK](#). This variable-speed [hermetic compressor](#) is one of the most widely deployed [LBP](#) (Low Back Pressure) units in European and international commercial refrigeration — and for good reason.

Originally built under the [Danfoss](#) brand before the compressor division was spun off as [Secop GmbH](#) in 2010, the [SLV15CNK](#) has carved out a reliable reputation across commercial food retail, light industrial cooling, and even medical cold-chain applications. The unit pictured above — serial reference

561108N4, profile **104H** — is the standard 220–240V, 50/60 Hz variant using [R290 \(propane\)](#) refrigerant, one of the most eco-friendly natural refrigerants available today.

Complete Technical Specifications Table

Parameter	Value
Model	SLV15CNK / SLV15CNK.2
Utilisation (MBP/HBP/ LBP)	LBP only (Low Back Pressure)
Domain (Freezing/Cooling)	Deep Freezing — evap. temp. -40°C to -10°C
Cooling Wattage at -23°C	~ 446 W (nominal at standard LBP conditions)
Cubic Feet Cooled	$\sim 7\text{--}10$ ft ³ (small to medium chest freezer)
Litres Cooled	$\sim 200\text{--}280$ litres
Kcal/h	~ 383 Kcal/h
TON	~ 0.127 TON of refrigeration
Oil Type & Quantity	Polyolester (POE) — 600 cm ³
Horsepower (HP)	$5/8$ HP (~ 0.60 HP)
Refrigerant Type	R290 (Propane) — max charge 150 g
Power Supply	$220\text{--}240\text{V}$ / 1Ph / $50\text{--}60$ Hz (range: $180\text{--}254\text{V}$)
Cooling Capacity BTU	~ 1521 BTU/h (LBP nominal)
Motor Type	Permanent Magnet (TRI — 3-phase inverter driven)
Displacement	15.28 cm ³
Winding Material	Copper (3-phase windings, resistance ~ 7.7 Ω at 25°C)
Pression Charge	LBP / LST — max condensing temp 55°C (65°C short-term)
Capillary	Approx. 3m / $\text{Ø}0.31$ mm (application-dependent — verify with OEM data)

Parameter	Value
Compatible Refrigerator Models	AHT Deep Freezers, light commercial chest freezers, display cases, ice machines, beverage coolers
Temperature Function	−40°C to −10°C evaporating; −35°C practical freezer operation
With Fan or Not	Yes — F2 fan cooling required (3.0 m/s airflow on compressor & controller)
Commercial or Domestic	Commercial (light commercial / food retail)
Amperage in Function	Max 4.6 A
LRA (Locked Rotor Amperage)	Electronic cut-off (no traditional LRA — inverter-controlled)
Type of Relay	No traditional relay — uses 105N46xx Series SLV Electronic Controller
Capacitor	No start/run capacitor — inverter-driven (variable speed 2000–4000 RPM)
Country of Origin & Export	Manufactured in Slovakia (Secop GmbH) — exported globally: EU, UK, Middle East, North Africa, Australia, Asia

What Makes This Compressor Special?

Variable Speed Technology

Most technicians encounter fixed-speed compressors day in and day out. The [SLV15CNK](#) breaks that mold entirely. It's a **variable speed drive (VSD) compressor**, meaning its speed adapts continuously between **2000 and 4000 RPM** based on thermal demand. The result is dramatically reduced energy consumption during low-load periods, less mechanical wear, and quieter operation — all things that matter enormously in a commercial food retail environment where a freezer runs 24/7, 365 days a year.

R290 — The Natural Refrigerant Advantage

[R290](#) (propane) is not new, but its adoption in commercial compressors has accelerated rapidly in recent years thanks to its near-zero Global Warming Potential (GWP = 3) compared to the synthetic alternatives it replaces. The [SLV15CNK](#) uses a **maximum charge of just 150 grams**, which keeps it below the safety threshold for flammable refrigerant use in occupied spaces. That tiny charge, combined with propane's excellent thermodynamic properties, means this compressor achieves high efficiency with a very light environmental footprint.

The Controller Dependency

One detail technicians absolutely must not overlook: this compressor **will not function without its dedicated SLV electronic controller** (105N46xx series). The label on the unit itself clearly states "Only with SLV controller." This is not a traditional [hermetic compressor](#) you can simply wire up to a relay and a capacitor. The controller handles speed regulation, current protection, speed monitoring, and thermal protection all in one unit. Replacing or sourcing this controller is as important as finding the compressor itself.

Fan Cooling Is Mandatory

At all ambient conditions (32°C, 38°C, and 43°C), the datasheet specifies **F2 cooling** — meaning fan airflow of at least **3.0 m/s** directly on both the compressor body and the electronic controller unit. Attempting to run this compressor without proper forced airflow will trigger thermal protection and lead to premature failure. This is a common oversight when installers replace the compressor without checking the cabinet's fan arrangement.

Replacement Compressors — Same Gas (R290)

When the [SLV15CNK](#) reaches end of life or fails, the most straightforward replacements use the same [R290](#) refrigerant. Here are five proven options:

Replacement #	Model	Brand	Notes
1	SLV15CNK.2 (104H8541)	Secop/Danfoss	Direct drop-in replacement — latest revision
2	SLV12CNK.2	Secop/Danfoss	Slightly lower displacement, same gas and controller family
3	SLV20CNK.2	Secop/Danfoss	Higher capacity option — same R290 /controller platform
4	NLV14CNK	Secop/Danfoss	Fixed-speed variant on R290 LBP — requires relay/capacitor
5	SCM10CNX.2	Secop	R290 , standard hermetic, LBP — no inverter controller needed

Replacement Compressors — Different Refrigerant

If [R290](#) is not available in your region, or if you're retro-fitting an older system, here are five equivalents using alternative refrigerants with comparable

capacity:

	Replacement			
#	Model	Brand	Refrigerant	Notes
1	SC15G	Secop/Danfoss	R404A / R507A	Classic LBP hermetic, no controller needed
2	NL11MF	Secop/Danfoss	R134a	LBP /MBP, standard hermetic
3	CAJ9513Z	Embraco	R404A	Direct LBP replacement at similar capacity
4	NEBL2134Z	Embraco	R600a	For domestic/light LBP applications
5	MTZ32-4VM	Danfoss	R452A/R404A	Slightly oversized but compatible for retrofits

⚠ Important: Switching refrigerants requires changing the oil type, capillary tube, and verifying all safety certifications. Always consult the system manufacturer before cross-refrigerant replacement.

Typical Applications — Which Freezers Use This Compressor?

The [SLV15CNK](#) is the heart of many products you'll recognize from the supermarket floor:

- **AHT Australian series chest freezers** (confirmed via [MBSM](#) documentation)
- Light commercial open-top island freezers
- Vertical display freezer cabinets (small commercial)
- Beverage coolers with sub-zero requirements
- Frozen food display cases at petrol stations and convenience stores
- Ice cream chest cabinets in retail environments

The AHT connection is particularly well-documented — AHT is a major manufacturer of commercial freezers widely deployed across European and African retail chains, and the [SLV15CNK](#) is one of their standard compressor choices.

Installation & Service Notes

A few practical points every technician should keep in mind when working with this unit:

Controller wiring: Always refer to the 105N46xx wiring diagram. Polarity and signal connections matter — the controller is not interchangeable between all SLV variants.

Refrigerant handling: [R290](#) is flammable (Class A3). Work in ventilated areas, avoid open flames, and use an [R290](#)-certified manifold gauge set. The 150g charge limit means leaks are rare but must be taken seriously.

Oil compatibility: POE oil is mandatory with R290 in this application. Do not substitute mineral oil or alkylbenzene — POE is pre-filled at the factory at 600 cm³.

Mounting vibration: The compressor ships with rubber mounting grommets. Always re-use or replace them — running on a hard mount increases noise and mechanical fatigue.

Capillary tube: The reference capillary for AHT applications is approximately 3m / 0.31mm diameter, but always measure and verify against the original system before cutting new tubing.

Why This Compressor Matters in 2025 and Beyond

The refrigeration industry is at a turning point. Synthetic refrigerants with high GWP are being phased out under F-Gas regulations in Europe and similar legislation worldwide. The SLV15CNK — running on propane with a permanent magnet variable-speed motor — represents exactly the direction the industry is heading: natural refrigerants, intelligent speed control, and reduced energy consumption without compromising reliability.

For service technicians, understanding this platform deeply isn't just useful today — it's preparation for the next decade of commercial refrigeration work.

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