



INFORMAL PRIOR-INFORMED CONSENT (*iPIC*)

Supporting compliance through prevention of illegal and unwanted trade in ozone depleting substances



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REFRIGERANT
22

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISPOSAL
Do not vent residual contents
Recover residual contents of
approved refrigerant recovery ce
empty (0 PSIG or less), open val
and dispose properly. Do not in
Please recycle!
Federal law forbids transportati
penalty up to \$25,000 fine and fvs



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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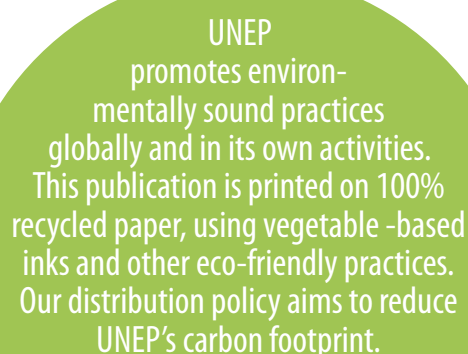
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 'informal Prior-Informed Consent' (*iPIC*) mechanism was launched in 2006 by UNEP DTIE OzonAction, as part of its work in providing assistance to developing countries to fulfil their commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This initiative was developed in order to better manage trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) that are controlled under the Protocol.

iPIC is a voluntary and informal mechanism of information exchange between trade partners on intended trade in ODS, ODS-containing mixtures, products and equipment prior to issuing import/export licences. The *iPIC* mechanism enables *iPIC* member countries to share details of eligible importers and exporters with other *iPIC* members through a secure online platform. UNEP's regional *iPIC* focal points can provide valuable assistance and support to follow-up on specific cases, as required. *iPIC* has been recognised by the Parties of the Montreal Protocol as a useful tool which can be used to reduce discrepancies between import and export data, to identify and reduce

illegal trade and cases of non-compliance with domestic legislation. Developed and developing countries which are not already members are encouraged to join *iPIC*.

Currently there are 113 members of *iPIC*, including major producing/exporting countries such as China, Singapore and those in the European Union. *iPIC* has helped to clarify the status of hundreds of intended shipments of ODS since its inception and has contributed to preventing numerous illegal or unauthorised shipments and facilitating legal trade. In 2014, of the reported 141 *iPIC* consultations, 68% resulted in approved trade amounting to 2,257 metric tonnes of ODS. Rejections or cancellations of requests following *iPIC* consultations prevented unwanted trade in more than 545 metric tonnes of ODS including hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and halons. More recently *iPIC* is also being used to screen shipments of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), which are not ODS.





THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer all countries worldwide are taking specific, time-targeted actions to reduce and eliminate the production and consumption of man-made chemicals that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield. It is the first multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) to achieve universal ratification. The Protocol has already effectively established a world-wide ban on the production and consumption of the most potent ozone depleting substances (ODS), such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and carbon tetrachloride (CTC). However, there are some exemptions which still exist to allow specific quantities of these ODS to be produced, traded internationally and consumed.

The main ODS still in use today are hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and to a lesser extent, methyl chloroform and methyl bromide. HCFCs will be phased out in developed countries by 2020 and in developing countries by 2030. Methyl chloroform and methyl bromide were phased out globally by 1st January, 2015.

Illegal trade in ODS initially flourished as smugglers exploited the opportunities presented as consumption and production controls were in force in some countries and production for the same ODS continued unabated in others. Since the penalties for being caught illegally trading ODS could be very low and were no real deterrent in most states, it was perhaps inevitable that the illegal trade grew and in the mid-1990s was estimated to be equivalent to over 12% of

global ODS production. The concerted efforts in enforcement activities in many countries, combined with the phase-out in production and consumption of CFCs and halons resulted in a decrease of smuggling of these chemicals, although seizures are still common.

As the phase-out of HCFCs progresses in developing countries there has been a significant increase in HCFCs smuggling. To date there have been many reported cases of HCFC illegal trade in both developed and developing countries. It is important that countries remain vigilant to the threat of ODS illegal trade and develop good cooperation with officers responsible for enforcement, particularly customs officers, and also cooperate with colleagues at the regional and international levels.

In order to enable countries to effectively monitor and control trade in ODS and to prevent illegal and unwanted trade, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol established, in 1997, a system for licensing the import and export of new, used, recycled and reclaimed ODS and ODS-containing mixtures. While a licensing system on its own is not sufficient to eliminate ODS smuggling, it gives the national authorities a way of taking stock of legitimate ODS traders, to allocate import and export permits among the authorised traders and to weed out any unauthorised trade (intentional or unintentional). Such a licensing system is more effective when coupled with a quota system that sets levels of permitted imports and exports. *iPIC* is an important tool which can significantly contribute to this effort.



INTRODUCTION TO *iPIC*

iPIC was established as a mechanism to exchange information on intended trade between trade partners in ODS, ODS-containing mixtures, products and equipment. It is a voluntary and informal mechanism. However even non-members are encouraged to contact *iPIC* members and respond to *iPIC* consultations. Essentially the countries participating in *iPIC* are requested to share details of authorised importers and exporters with *iPIC* members of other countries and to exchange information prior to shipments of ODS. In practice, applying the *iPIC* procedure means that before issuing a trade licence (for import or export), the relevant authorities request the *iPIC* focal points of their trade partner to confirm that they agree to the intended trade and that they will issue an import/export licence accordingly.

The information exchange and cross-checking is carried out between the designated *iPIC* focal points of the trade partners through a secure online *iPIC* platform or via a simple exchange of emails or by telephone. *iPIC* data are only shared among the designated *iPIC* focal points of the member countries. *iPIC* members include the major producing/exporting countries such as China, Singapore and those in the European Union.

iPIC has proven to be a valuable mechanism for facilitating information exchange and has helped to clarify the status of hundreds of intended shipments of ODS since its inception. It has been responsible for preventing numerous illegal or unauthorised shipments. For example, in 2014, of the reported 141 *iPIC* consultations, over 30% resulted in rejections or cancellations of the licence request and this prevented unwanted

trade in more than 545 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs and halons. Increasingly there are also HFC (hydrofluorocarbon) related consultations.

In addition to its original purpose of preventing illegal and unwanted trade, *iPIC* can assist in forging links between responsible staff in importing and exporting countries and has also contributed to increased mutual co-operation between the officers responsible for ODS licensing around the world. Furthermore, it assists countries in the effective enforcement of their own national licensing system, for example by identifying trading companies that are unaware of existing obligations.

The Parties of the Montreal Protocol have recognised *iPIC* as a tool with the means to combat illegal trade in ODS.¹ The Parties have for example encouraged specific countries to participate in the *iPIC* process to help overcome the difficulties of being new members.² Furthermore, in 2012, all Parties were invited to consider participation in *iPIC* as a means to improve information about their potential imports of controlled substances with the aim of reducing differences between reports of imports and exports of ODS and helping to identify illegal trade or cases of non-compliance with domestic legislation.³

For each region UNEP has nominated regional *iPIC* focal points (see p.17) which can follow up on timely responses, as appropriate and facilitate consultations between *iPIC* members and non-*iPIC* members routing the requests to the designated Ozone Officers.

■ The three simple steps to join *iPIC*

Participation in *iPIC* is simple. Countries must have established and implemented a national licensing system for ODS import and export. It is necessary that the licensing system require individual permits per shipment of ODS (import or export). Once the above requirements are met the basic steps to join *iPIC* are as follows:

Step 1. Upon request from the country, UNEP initiates the process by creating a new data entry form for that country.

Step 2. The designated focal points receive a notification message by email containing their access information for the *iPIC* system and a link to validate their contact information. The country now has access to *iPIC*.

Step 3. The designated *iPIC* focal point completes the simple *iPIC* data form with information on their national licensing system, including details of registered importers and exporters, any trade bans or exemptions in place, etc. The full contact details of the designated and alternative *iPIC* focal point(s) should also be provided. UNEP can also assist in entering the initial *iPIC* data into the *iPIC* system.

The *iPIC* data and contact details can be updated at any time during the year. Members are encouraged to update the information at least annually. Previously entered data can easily be duplicated and updated for the following year.

If you are interested in joining *iPIC* please contact the relevant UNEP regional *iPIC* focal point for more information, (see p.17 for contact details).

■ How *iPIC* operates

The key actions are performed by the designated *iPIC* focal points:

- On receiving a request to issue an import or export licence, the *iPIC* information provided by the trading partner can be consulted and an *iPIC* consultation is initiated. This can be carried out through *iPIC*, a simple

email exchange or a telephone call. Often a response is received the same day. It is recommended to copy the regional UNEP *iPIC* focal points in queries so that they can assist in following up to ensure a timely response is received.

- In order to not unduly delay trade, the absence of a reply to an *iPIC* enquiry after a reasonable period of time (e.g. 5 days) may be considered at the discretion of the country as an agreement to allow the trade to proceed.

■ Recommendations for effectiveness

- In cases where the trade partner is not an *iPIC* member, it is recommended to consult the National Ozone Unit (NOU) or focal point and the designated licensing focal point in the trading partner country for confirmation, copying the UNEP regional *iPIC* focal point.
- It is important that countries provide details of the final destination, rather than the transit point for shipments.
- For imports of used, recycled, reclaimed ODS, it is recommended to check whether the exporting country has recycling or reclaim facilities and initiate the *iPIC* consultation requesting proof of origin.
- For ODS exports for destruction, the *iPIC* consultation should be carried out to determine whether the importing country has appropriate destruction facilities.
- For ODS for exempted uses (critical use exemptions, laboratory uses, essential uses, methyl bromide for quarantine & pre-shipment, etc.) it is also recommended to initiate an *iPIC* consultation.

Example *iPIC* query

The following is an example of a typical message sent by *iPIC* members when initiating a query with a trading partner regarding an intended ODS import/export. The specific information included will depend on the particular case.

Dear Mr / Ms _____

We received an application for a licence concerning your country. You will find the details below. In the context of the informal Prior Informed Consent procedure (*iPIC*) we kindly ask you to confirm that you consider this trade as acceptable and in compliance with your provisions under the Montreal Protocol and national legislation.

Exporter from your country: [name of exporting company]

Importer in [name of country]: [name of importing company]

Substance: [name of substance and composition if substance is a mixture]

Use: [intended application/use for substance]

Net-mass: [in kg or metric tonnes]

To avoid any inconveniences for the concerned companies we would appreciate if you were able to respond at your earliest convenience [e.g. within five working days]. We would like to thank you very much in advance for your efforts concerning this issue.

[Name of sender]

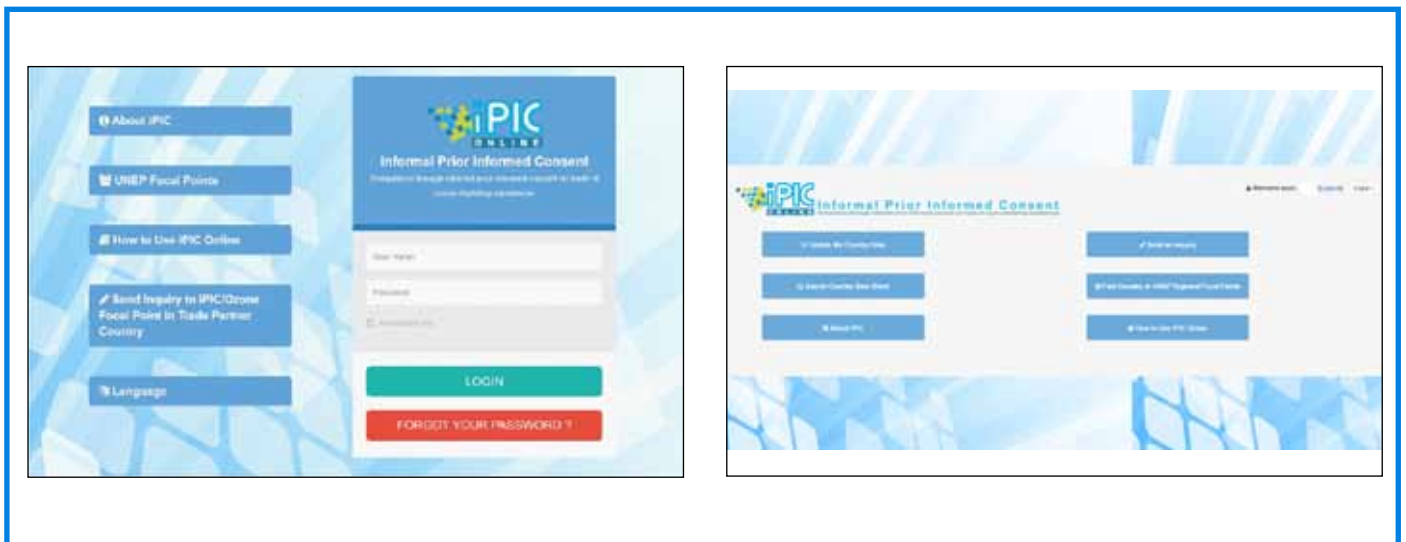


■ What's new

Some of the *iPIC* platform's functions and features have recently been simplified to enable users to update their country data and access those of other countries more easily. New features were also added to make *iPIC* more user-friendly, these include:

- New interface for the login and home pages
 - Non-members can now send queries on ODS shipment directly to relevant countries
 - FAQs section is now available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic.
- *iPIC* summary statistics are now displayed within the *iPIC* platform and can be consulted for a general overview of the trends in ODS trade/consumption as well as the countries involved
 - The data forms have been simplified to facilitate and streamline data entry completion
 - There is a new instruction guide and videos to assist with understanding the *iPIC* platform.

iPIC can be found at the following address:
<http://62.160.8.45/ipic>



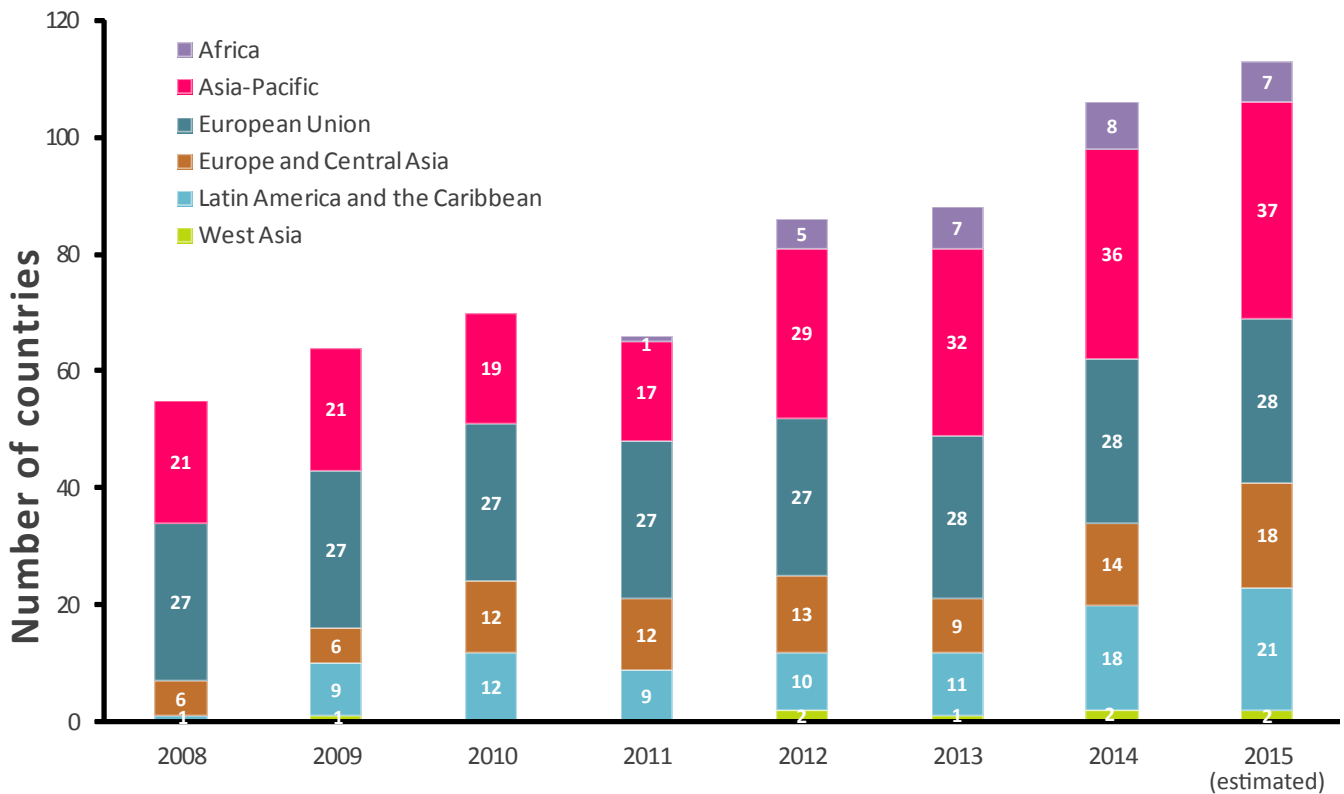
iPIC MEMBERS

As of March 2015 there are 113 *iPIC* members. However, there are several countries which have not updated their *iPIC* data recently and are encouraged to do so. UNEP can provide any assistance that may be needed. As can be seen in the chart below, there is some variation in the number of countries participating in *iPIC* from year to year. There is also a marked difference in participation from countries of different regions. The effectiveness of *iPIC* is progressively improved as more countries become members and the mechanism covers an increasing proportion of global ODS trade. Therefore all countries, both

developed and developing are encouraged to join *iPIC* and to begin to reap the benefits of this initiative.

There are a number of countries that actively use *iPIC* regularly and consistently. The *iPIC* champions that initiated queries in 2014 include: the countries of the Europe Union, represented by the European Commission, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Palau, Serbia, Singapore and Ukraine.

iPIC members 2008-2015



■ *iPIC* members (as of May 2015)

Africa

Angola
Burkina Faso*
Gambia*
Kenya*
Mauritius
Namibia
Seychelles*

Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan
Australia
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia*
China
Cook Islands*
Fiji*
Indonesia*
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Japan*
Kiribati*
Korea, Republic of
Lao, PDR*
Malaysia*
Maldives*
Marshall Islands*
Micronesia, Federated States of

Mongolia
Myanmar*
Nauru*
Nepal*
New Zealand*
Niue*
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea*
Philippines
Samoa*
Singapore
Solomon Islands*
Sri Lanka
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Tuvalu*
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Europe and Central Asia

Albania*
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia*
Kazakhstan*

Kyrgyzstan
Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of*
Moldova, Republic of
Montenegro
Russian Federation
Serbia
Tajikistan
Turkey*
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

European Union

(28 Countries)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bahamas
Barbados*
Belize
Bolivia, Plurinational State of
Brazil
Columbia
Costa Rica*
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Grenada
Guyana

Jamaica*
Mexico*
Panama*
Paraguay
Peru*
Saint Kitts and Nevis*
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of*

West Asia

Iraq
Oman

* Data has not been updated- requires update or completion of *iPIC* data



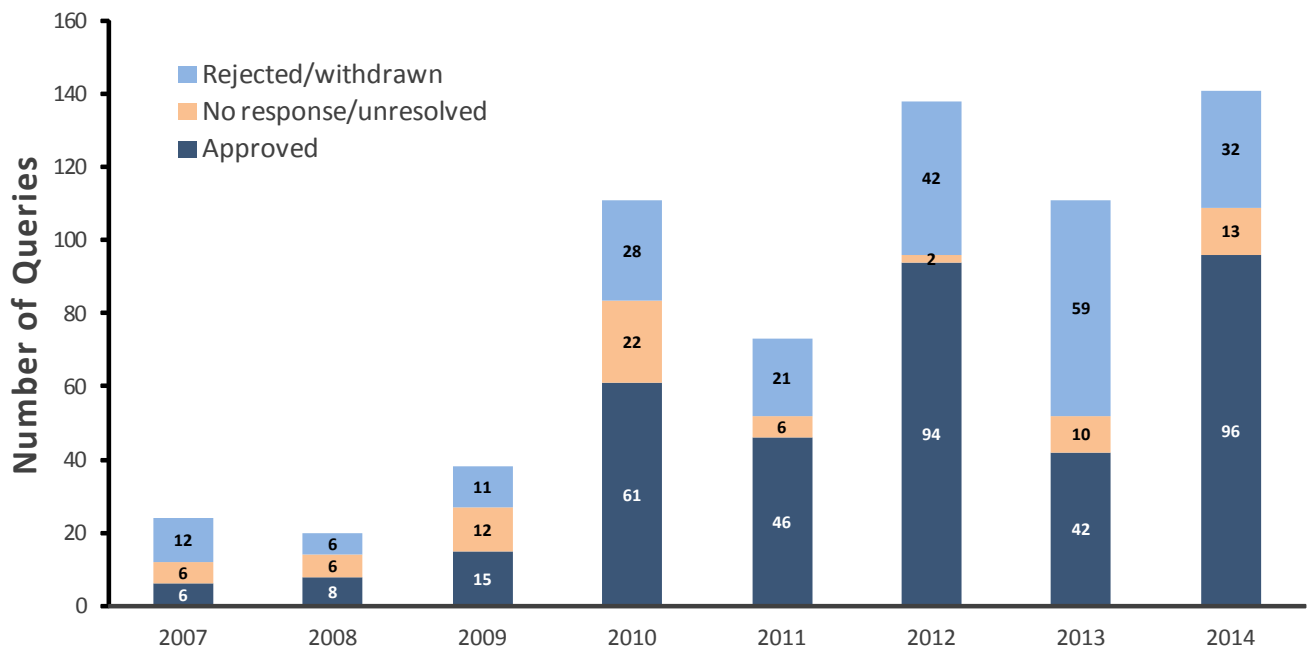
There are some interesting and encouraging trends in the use of *iPIC* through the years of its operation.

The number of trade requests screened using *iPIC* has progressively risen over the years. Prior to 2009, the number of these trade requests was around 20 queries per year. This has steadily increased, with the highest number of queries being reached in 2014. Out of the 141 *iPIC* consultations in 2014, more than 30% resulted in rejections or cancellations of the proposed trade. The mechanism facilitated the legal trade of over

2,000 metric tonnes and prevented illegal or unwanted trade in more than 545 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs and halons.

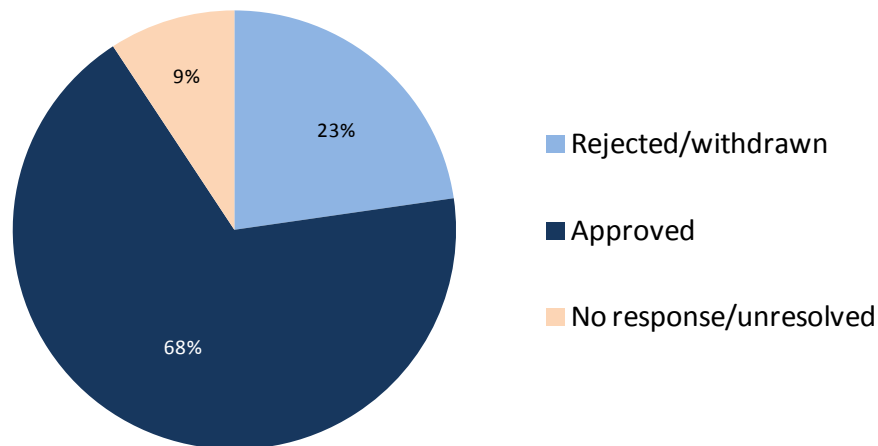
Active participation in *iPIC* of some of the world's key ODS exporters, such as the European Union, Singapore and China, has contributed significantly to increasing the number of queries being generated and responded to. This increase can also be attributed in part to the efforts of UNEP's Regional Ozone Networks in establishing regional cooperation mechanisms involving Customs & Ozone Officers on Montreal Protocol issues.

Number of queries reported through *iPIC* from 2007-2014 by outcome.



iPIC IN 2014 AT A GLANCE

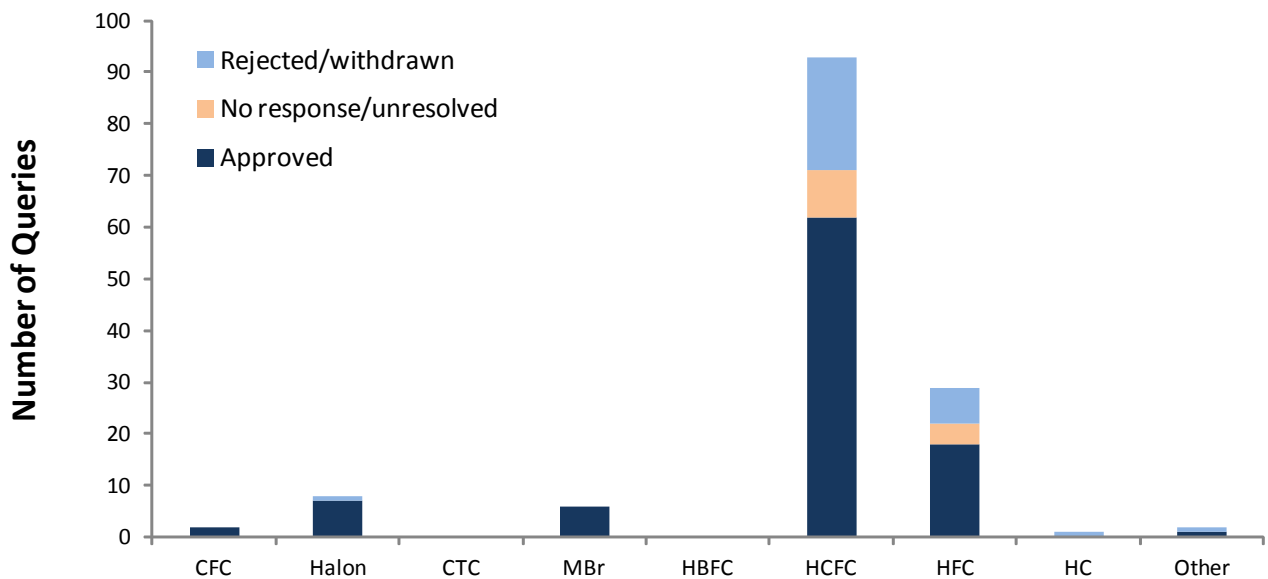
Number of queries reported through *iPIC* in 2014 by outcome (percentage)



In 2014, there were 141 queries reported through *iPIC*. The vast majority (68%) were approved and the trade proceeded. However, around a third (32%) of the cases were rejected, preventing

illegal or unwanted trade of about 545 metric tonnes of ODS, with HCFCs making up the lion's share, accounting for 514 metric tonnes.

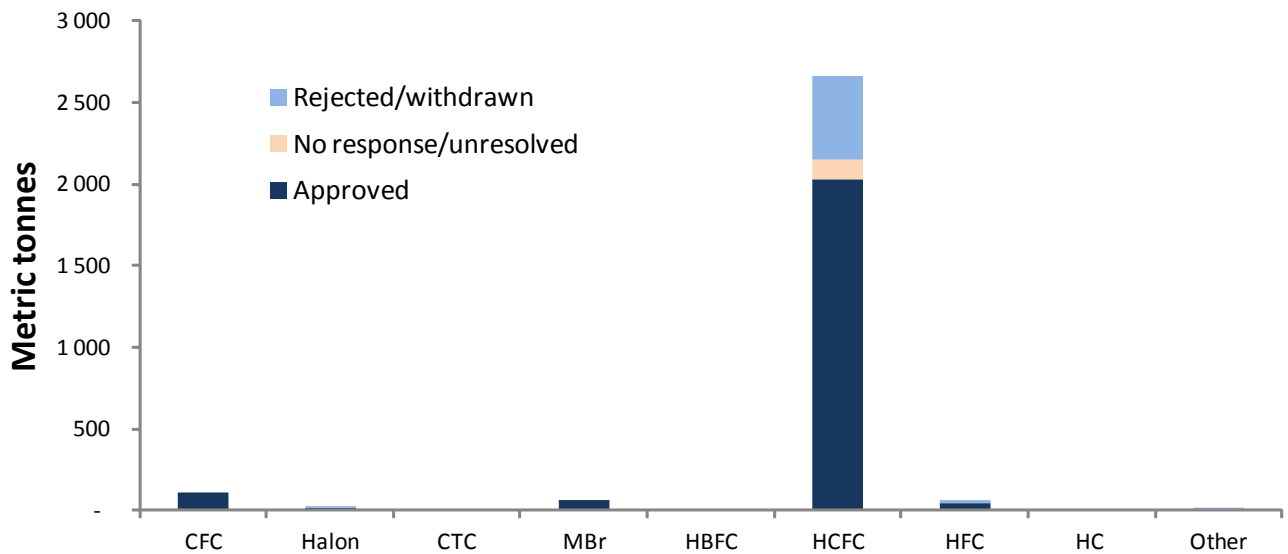
Number of queries reported through *iPIC* in 2014 by substance



By examining the 2014 *iPIC* enquiries by the number of queries, it is apparent that by far the greatest majority of enquiries were related to HCFCs (66%) and to HFCs (21%). It is also interesting to note that trade in hydrofluorocarbons, (HFC), which are not ozone

depleting and not controlled under the Montreal Protocol, was still screened through *iPIC* by the interested countries. In 2014, trade of 60 metric tonnes of HFCs was screened through the *iPIC* system.

Queries reported through *iPIC* in 2014 by quantity per substance (metric tonnes)



In terms of quantities, HCFCs accounted for 91% of all ODS screened, with 514 metric tonnes of illegal/unwanted trade in HCFCs prevented following *iPIC* consultations. In comparison the quantities of other ODS and non-ODS were very small. In the case of HFCs there were 29 queries for only 60 metric tonnes, indicating rather small shipments of these chemicals. It is interesting to

note that more than four years after the phase-out of CFC production and consumption, there is still a quantity of CFC and halon trade screened through *iPIC*. CFCs, halons, CTC and some other ODS which have already been phased out are permitted to be traded only for specific exempted uses.



EXAMPLES OF *iPIC* CASES IN 2014

The records from *iPIC* consultations and details on how these were ultimately concluded by the ODS licensing authorities can provide useful insights to strengthen and encourage the effective operation of the licensing system. Some examples from 2014 are included below:

Illegal trade

A shipment involving 156 tonnes of HCFC-22 was stopped following an *iPIC* consultation and authorities from the importing country further investigated the matter with the importing company which confirmed it did not purchase R-22 from the supplier. The importing company's name was also spelled incorrectly which made the local authorities suspicious of the trade.

Fake license

Authorities of an exporting country inquired about a shipment of HCFC totalling 60 tonnes under different licences issued by the importing country. Upon closer inspection, the authorities of the importing country noticed that the number of one of the licences was modified to make it appear to be a different licence. The importing company, after being informed, cancelled the trade and informed they would purchase from a different supplier.

Expired licence

An importing company was listed in the country's list of registered importers stored in *iPIC*. However, the exporting country requested further confirmation which showed that although the company was an authorised importer, its import licence had already expired, thus the shipment of HCFCs was not approved.

HFCs

Several inquiries regarding a number of shipments of HFCs were initiated by an importing country, however the authorities from the exporting country clarified that they do not require a licence to export HFCs and thus these shipments were allowed to proceed. HFCs are not ozone-depleting and not controlled under the Montreal Protocol. However, in the past there have been a

number of cases where HFCs were seized when their import did not comply with relevant national legislation.

Non *iPIC* members

It is important to note that consultations do not need to be restricted to *iPIC* members; indeed *iPIC* now allows queries to be initiated by non-registered users. Several queries were initiated and/or responded to by non *iPIC* members in 2014, including directly contacting a trade partner country to obtain clarification and details about specific ODS shipments. In some cases these consultations concerned shipments that had already taken place. This enabled the countries to correct their relevant import/export data. It is nevertheless preferable that respective countries become *iPIC* members to reap all the benefits of the system.

UNEP assistance

Assistance provided by UNEP regional focal points has proved useful in following up with concerned trade partners in resolving specific cases. For example, UNEP followed up with both importing and exporting countries on the outcome of a shipment of 15 tonnes of HCFCs. The exporting country confirmed authorising the shipment for virgin HCFCs while the importing country reported having rejected said shipment of 'used HCFCs', the discrepancy in this key information prompted both countries to further investigate and resolve the matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the nine years that the informal Prior-Informed Consent mechanism has been operating, it has grown from a modest initiative with only a small number of participating countries in the Asia-Pacific region into a much larger global tool.

The effectiveness of *iPIC* can be progressively improved by being more widely adopted and utilised:

- As of March 2015, there are 113 members of *iPIC*. However, for *iPIC* to become even more effective, it is necessary that more countries actively participate. All countries, both developed and developing, which are not already members of *iPIC* are strongly encouraged to join *iPIC*.
- Countries that have been active members in the past but have not recently updated their *iPIC* data are encouraged to do so.
- At the 24th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol all Parties were invited to consider participation in *iPIC* as a means to improve information about their potential imports of controlled substances with the aim of reducing the difference between reports of imports and exports of ODS and helping to identify illegal trade (Decision XXIV/12).
- Countries with only a small number of shipments of ODS per year could consider initiating *iPIC* consultations for all licence requests.
- Exporting countries may wish to consider sending automatic notifications for all export licences issued, even where an *iPIC* consultation is not entered into.
- It is important to use *iPIC* to screen potential shipments of ODS for exempted uses; used, recycled, and reclaimed ODS; ODS intended for destruction as well as ODS-containing products and equipment.
- *iPIC* can play an important role in initiating consultations between *iPIC* members and non-members - now an increasingly common occurrence. The new updated *iPIC* platform now provides a facility for non-members to initiate queries.
- UNEP's regional *iPIC* focal points can provide valuable assistance and support to follow-up with specific consultations.



USEFUL LINKS AND REFERENCES

Enforcement-related publications

For more information please see the following documents, available at www.unep.org/ozonaction:

- Training Manual for Customs Officers: Saving the Ozone Layer - Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances in Developing Countries - Third Edition (2013):
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7571-e-CTM_Third_Edition.pdf
- Risk Assessment of Illegal Trade In HCFCs (2011):
www.unep.org/ozonaction/Topics/Customs/tabid/6402/Default.aspx
- Enforcement Strategies for Combating the Illegal Trade in HCFCs and Methyl Bromide (2013)
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7507-e-risk_assessment.pdf
- Customs and Enforcement Officers – Monitoring trade in HCFCs - Information Note (2012)
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7559-e-Monitoring_trade_in_HCFCs.pdf
- Customs and Enforcement Officers Quick Guide - Changes in the 2012 HS Nomenclature for HCFCs and Certain Other Ozone Depleting Substances
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7532-e-2012_HS_Codes_for_ODS.pdf
- Ozone Depleting Substances Smuggling and Concealment Case Study Handbook: Available only on request

Useful links

- For more information on *iPIC* please see the OzonAction website:
<http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/InformationResources/iPIC-online/tabid/79051/Default.aspx>
- *iPIC* online (for *iPIC* members)
<http://62.160.8.45/IPIC/Account/Login>
- List of designated Ozone Officers (available from the OzonAction website):
www.unep.org/ozonaction/InformationResources/Contacts/tabid/6549/Default.aspx
- Designated ODS licensing focal points (available from the Ozone Secretariat website)
http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/ozone_data_tools_focal_points_licensing_systems.php

References/footnotes

1. Montreal Protocol Decision XIX/12 - Preventing illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/19mop/MOP-19-7E.doc
2. Montreal Protocol Decisions XX/15 - Difficulties faced by Iraq as a new Party - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/MOP-20-9E.pdf and XXI/24 - Difficulties faced by Timor-Leste as a new Party - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-8E.doc
3. Montreal Protocol Decision XXIV/12 - Differences between data reported on imports and data reported on exports - <http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop/mop-24/final-report/PreSession%20Documents/MOP-24-10E.pdf>

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ABOUT THE UNEP DTIE OZONACTION PROGRAMME

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, countries worldwide are taking specific, time-targeted actions to reduce and eliminate the production and consumption of man-made chemicals that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield.

The objective of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS), which include CFCs, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and HCFCs. One hundred ninety seven governments have joined this multilateral environmental agreement and are taking action.

The UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) to enable them to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With our programme's assistance, countries are able to make informed decisions about alternative technologies, ozone-friendly policies and enforcement activities.

OzonAction has two main areas of work:

- Assisting developing countries in UNEP's capacity as an Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, through a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP).
- Specific partnerships with bilateral agencies and Governments.

UNEP's partnerships under the Montreal Protocol contribute to the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

For more information

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About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) helps governments, local authorities and decision-makers in business and industry to develop and implement policies and practices focusing on sustainable development.

The Division works to promote:

- > sustainable consumption and production,
- > the efficient use of renewable energy,
- > adequate management of chemicals,
- > the integration of environmental costs in development policies.

The Office of the Director, located in Paris, coordinates activities through:

> **The International Environmental Technology Centre** - IETC (Osaka, Shiga), which implements integrated waste, water and disaster management programmes, focusing in particular on Asia.

> **Sustainable Consumption and Production** (Paris), which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns as a contribution to human development through global markets.

> **Chemicals** (Geneva), which catalyzes global actions to bring about the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide.

> **Energy** (Paris), which fosters energy and transport policies for sustainable development and encourages investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

> **OzonAction** (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

> **Economics and Trade** (Geneva), which helps countries to integrate environmental considerations into economic and trade policies, and works with the finance sector to incorporate sustainable development policies.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of knowledge and information, fostering technological cooperation and partnerships, and implementing international conventions and agreements.

For more information,
see www.unep.org/dtie

The 'informal Prior-Informed Consent' (*iPIC*) mechanism was launched in 2006 by the UNEP DTIE OzonAction as part of its work in providing assistance to developing countries to fulfil their commitments under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This initiative was developed in order to better manage trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) that are controlled under the Protocol.

iPIC has become a global voluntary initiative used by 113 like-minded states who wish to strengthen the implementation of their national licensing system for ozone depleting substances (ODS). In 2014, of the reported 141 *iPIC* consultations, 68% resulted in approved trade amounting to 2,257 metric tonnes of ODS. Rejections or cancellations of requests following *iPIC* consultations prevented unwanted trade in more than 545 metric tonnes of ODS including hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and halons. More recently *iPIC* is also being used to screen shipments of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), which are not ODS.

This short booklet briefly describes how the *iPIC* system works and its advantages, it provides some information on results and successes from *iPIC* in 2014 and encourages countries which are not yet members to join and to begin to reap the benefits of this initiative.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

For use by trained and experienced personnel only.
To discharge, cautiously remove the cap and connect to the high pressure outlet.

Connect charging hose directly to the high pressure outlet.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISPOSAL

Do not vent residual contents.
Recover residual contents using an approved refrigerant recovery system.
When empty (0 PSIG or less), open valve and dispose properly. Do not reuse.
Please recycle!

Federal law prohibits transport of this product.

DTI/1904/PA