

OZONENEWS

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UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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1- UK May Have to Export Scrapped Refrigerators Containing CFCs

The UK does not have the infrastructure needed to meet the 1 January 2002 deadline for the European Commission's regulation for the disposal of ozone depleting substances from domestic refrigerators, and may be forced to export scrapped refrigerators for disposal in other European countries ... Around 40% of the 2.5 million refrigerators that are replaced each year in the UK have been traditionally exported to developing countries in working order, with the remainder being sent to scrap metal facilities or to landfill ... as a result of the European Commission regulation, the export of functional fridges will also no longer be an option, ... The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) admits that unless something is done, scrapped refrigerators may have to be exported to countries that do have the facilities to safely remove CFCs. However, the Department is attempting to solve the problem. "There are three companies that think that they will be able to set up [the removal of CFCs from refrigerators] once the standards have been decided ...". Currently, a technical committee is developing a set of standards, which DEFRA hopes will be completed by the end of this month. Nevertheless, as of the beginning of January 2002, local authorities may be faced with the problem of how to store scrapped refrigerators, says DEFRA, and as a result, the Department is attempting to find some extra money to assist them.

Full Text @: <http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/4756.cfm>

Source: Edie weekly summaries 05 October 2001

2- Atmospheric Waves Create the Conditions for Arctic Ozone Loss

Waves of energy in the tropical atmosphere are aiding the destruction of Arctic ozone, researchers conclude from satellite temperature measurements. Knowing this should help to predict how climate change might affect ozone depletion in the Arctic... Planetary waves are set up by the Earth's rotation in the lower atmosphere (the troposphere). Gradually, they move up to the stratosphere as they encircle the globe from west to east. There they break up and dissipate, like ocean waves reaching the shore. This injects energy into the stratosphere... Global warming might alter planetary-wave activity in the future... Ozone depletion varies with temperature because it relies on the formation of polar stratospheric clouds, which are composed of ice particles. Inert chlorine compounds on the surface of the ice particles are converted to active forms capable of destroying ozone. The chlorine comes mostly from man-made chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs). In the Antarctic, an isolated vortex of very cold air appears every winter, leading to the formation of stratospheric ice clouds. Ozone-destroying reactions are then triggered by spring sunlight. The Arctic has no regular, well-defined polar vortex. There, ozone depletion is subject to the whims of the upper atmosphere - and whether it gets cold enough for stratospheric clouds to form.

Full text @: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/010927/010927-8.html>

Source: Nature News Service, 26 September 2001

3- Lagos Backs Ban On Used Fridges

Lagos State government gave its nod to the recent ban on the importation of fairly used refrigerators and air-conditioners which takes effect from October 1, saying that the move is aimed at protecting the health of Nigerians... the decision was supposed to have been taken 10 years ago in conformity with

International regulations on the issue... the ban became unavoidable because there is increasing need to protect the ozone layer from further depletion caused by refrigerants used in manufacturing the appliances imported into the country... Meanwhile, the Lagos State government is planning a seminar in collaboration with packaged water manufacturers on the challenges of production of wholesome water and to proffer solutions on sustainable environment in the state.

Full Text @: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200109280234.html>

Source: The Guardian (Lagos), By: Yinka Aderibigbe, 28 September 2001

4- Next Generation Debuts, as HCFCs Drift Away

The phaseout of ozone-depleting chemicals is prompting the \$3.5-billion/year fluorocarbon industry to roll out new hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) products and expand capacity as it enters the next phase in a transition begun by the Montreal Protocol in 1987. Phase one replaced most of the developed world's chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) with hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which have significantly reduced ozone-destroying potential, during the 1990s. The HCFCs are now themselves being replaced with environmentally benign HFCs in refrigeration, air conditioning, and foam blowing, leading to double-digit revenue growth expectations for certain HFCs, executives say... As the shift from HCFCs to HFCs enters its next phase, companies have done the necessary research work to produce chemicals without ozone threats, says Baunchalk. But producers still have to make the right capital investment decisions to balance supply with demand. The industry's challenge, he adds, is "to manage the transition."... (Statistical Data Included)

Full Text @: <http://www.chemicalonline.com/content/news/article.asp?docid={670F714F-B447-11D5-A>

Source: Chemical Week, By: Bill Schmitt, 08 August 2001

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<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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