

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:
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1- EPA is Allocating Essential-Use Allowances for Import and Production of Class I Stratospheric Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) for Calendar Year 2002

Essential-use allowances permit a person to obtain controlled class I ODSs as an exemption to the January 1, 1996 regulatory phase-out of production and import of these chemicals. EPA allocates essential-use allowances for exempted production or import of a specific quantity of class I ODS solely for the designated essential purpose. Today EPA is finalizing the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register on November 1, 2001. With this action, EPA is allocating essential-use allowances for production and import of class I ODSs for use in medical devices and the Space Shuttle and Titan Rockets, and extending the general exemption for class I ODSs for use in essential laboratory and analytical applications through the year 2005 as consistent with the Montreal Protocol. EPA is also finalizing regulatory changes to ensure consistency with Decisions XI/15 and XII/2 of the Montreal Protocol. Decision XI/15 states that use of class I ODS for the testing of "oil and grease," and "total petroleum hydrocarbons" in water; testing of tar in road-paving materials; and forensic finger printing are not considered essential under the exemption for laboratory and analytical uses beginning January 1, 2002. Decision XII/2 states that any CFC MDIs approved after December 31, 2000, are not essential unless the product meets the criteria for essentiality set out in paragraph 1(a) of Decision IV/25. Decision XII/2 also authorizes Parties to the Montreal Protocol to allow transfers of CFCs produced with essential-use allowances among MDI companies. Finally, EPA is adding a regulatory language to clarify that it is a violation of the CAA if unused class I ODS produced under the authority of essential-use allowances or the exemption for laboratory and analytical uses are used in applications other than the stated essential purposes. This final rulemaking is effective February 11, 2002 ...

Full text @: http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=displaynews&doc_id=NR20020211665.1_b5dc00b4fb004c29

Source: Hoover's Online, 11 February 2002

2- Skin Cancer has Tripled Since 1960s

Recent figures show that holidays in the sun and the desire to look tanned have, over the past 40 years, taken their toll in lives... Sir Richard - the scientist who linked smoking and lung cancer in 1950 - said that, despite fears over the use of sunlamps and ozone depletion, people's own carelessness in the sun was chiefly to blame...

Article @: <http://www.independent.co.uk/story.jsp?story=118843>

Source: The Independent, UK, 08 February 2002, By Charles Arthur, Technology Editor

3- Exploding Star Strafed Earth

... The explosion of a dying star could have ended much of marine life on Earth two million years ago. The supernova could have strafed the Earth's atmosphere with cosmic rays, severely damaging the ozone layer and exposing living organisms to high levels of the Sun's hazardous ultraviolet rays... many marine creatures, such as bivalve molluscs, died out suddenly all over the planet. As mass extinctions go, this was a mild one. But no one knows what caused it. Narciso Benítez of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and his colleagues think that a nearby supernova at this time could have showered the Earth with cosmic rays. These charged subatomic particles collide with atoms in the air, initiating chemical reactions. Copious cosmic rays are thought to produce nitrogen monoxide, which can destroy ozone molecules. The researchers calculate that a supernova 130 light years away could have thinned the ozone layer by up to 60 per cent, exposing marine organisms to ultraviolet rays from the Sun. This could have killed off plankton, and thence the molluscs that live off them...

Article @: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/020211/020211-2.html#1>

Source: Nature Science Update, 12 February 2002, By: Philip Ball

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

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