

OZONews

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1- Man Sentenced In CFCs Scheme (USA)

A federal judge has sentenced a native of Puerto Rico to eight months of home detention for his part in a fraud scheme involving the illegal importing and selling of chlorofluorocarbon gases. Alfredo Vega, 66, was sentenced Monday. He pleaded guilty to a tax fraud charge. Three Connecticut men had previously pleaded guilty to charges that they conspired to defraud the government of millions of dollars. Because of the risk to the ozone layer posed by airborne CFCs, they are subject to strict regulation under the Clean Air Act. CFCs are subject to an excise tax of more than \$5 per pound upon sale in the United States. Prosecutors say the men engaged in a scheme between 1995 and 1998 to import hundreds of tons of CFCs through shell entities to avoid \$7 million in excise taxes. Barry Himes, 59, of Lyme; John Mucha, 46, of Guilford; and Richard Pelletier, 41, of Bolton, are awaiting sentencing.

Article @: <http://www.ctnow.com/news/local/hc-gasfraud0710.artjul10.story?coll=hc%2Dheadlines%2Dlocal>

Source: ctnow.com, By The Hartford Courant, 10 July 2002

2- Philippines May Take Australia to WTO on Fruit Exports

The Philippines will file a complaint against Australia before the World Trade if Canberra rejects its proposal to use hydrocyanic acid in place of methyl bromide in treating its pineapple exports, a senior official said Monday. "We are not happy with the pineapple IRA (import risk analysis) that we received from the Australian government today. This is because the restrictions of decrowning the pineapple and requiring the use of methyl bromide makes exporting Philippine pineapples uneconomical and not financially feasible," Agriculture Under-secretary Ernesto Ordenez said in a statement. Biosecurity Australia Monday issued the final IRA and draft IRA on Philippine pineapples and bananas respectively ... Australia insisted that Philippine pineapples be decrowned, as the crown reportedly serves as a reservoir for certain pests, and that methyl bromide be used to fumigate all pests and diseases. The Philippines is opposing the decrowning of its pineapple exports, as doing so shortens the shelf life of the pineapples. ... "If Australia prides itself in being technologically advanced, it should adopt this alternative instead of insisting on methyl bromide, which has proven to have harmful effects on the environment, especially the ozone layer. In fact, hydrocyanic acid is being used in countries like Japan and New Zealand, he added. Ordenez said he has already brought the issue to Australian officials Monday "and they promised to look at it." ...

Article @:

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/dowjones/20020701/bs_dowjones/philippines_may_take_australia_to_wto_on_fruit_exports

Source: Dow Jones Newswires, 01 July 2002, By Rhea Sandique-Carlos

3- Keeping Cool a Hot Topic (USA)

Effective automobile air conditioning ... a hot environmental topic at a Scottsdale, Arizona conference organized by the Society of Automotive Engineers, International (SAE) this week, The SAE Automotive Alternate Refrigerant Systems Symposium, July 9-11, 2002 ... Growing concern over environmental protection is driving engineers to evaluate the impact of automobile air conditioning ... Concern by automotive engineers on the environmental impact of air conditioning (AC) is not new. In the early 1990's attention was focused on the impact of air conditioning in reducing the earth's protective ozone layer ... Many of the presentations demonstrated how new refrigerants could reduce environmental impact ... Ward Atkinson, the meeting's organizer, noted that the symposium was created to encourage research and development of alternate automotive refrigerants, as well as provide a forum for the exchange of technical information on improving the environment ... This conference has attracted 220 experts from twelve countries around the world. The first of these conferences was held in 1998 and has contributed significantly to the development of technology for environmentally friendly air conditioning systems. Stephen O. Anderson of the US EPA has commended SAE for providing this global forum and for undertaking research on alternative refrigerants.

Contact: Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc. (SAE): <http://www.sae.org>

Article @: http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=displaynews&doc_id=NR200207101680.2_82fd001bd12fdad1

Source: Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc. 10 July 2002

4- The National Diet of Japan Enacts Auto Recycling Legislation

The National Diet of Japan enacted a law Friday that forces automakers and automobile importers to recover and recycle vehicle shredder dust, air bags and ozone-depleting gases from air conditioners. The law is designed to minimize the garbage produced by the 5 million vehicles discarded each year ... The government will seek to have automakers and importers comply with the used automobile material recycling law by the end of 2004 after giving them a grace period to take preparatory measures, government officials said. The bill, which was earlier cleared the House of Representatives, was passed Friday by the plenary session of the House of Councilors. At present, another law bars businesses that scrap cars from releasing chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting gases into the air. Starting Oct. 1, the government plans to require that car owners pay a 3,000 yen fee to raise funds to cover the costs of recovering and destroying the ozone-depleting gases as a temporary step, which will be followed until late 2004, when the new law will take effect ... Under the law, automakers are responsible for recycling or outsourcing the recycling of automobiles they produce ... Although around 80 percent of a vehicle is generally recycled, air conditioners containing chlorofluorocarbon gases and air bags containing explosives have proved difficult for companies to handle, according to government officials. Manufacturers are to set recycling fees before the law goes into effect in late 2004 and government officials are hoping that makers will push down recycling fees to attract customers by making their products less expensive to recycle ...

Article @: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20020706a7.htm>

Source: The Japan Times, 6 July 2002

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

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