

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol provided by:  
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris  
30 July 2002

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### 1- **Two Men Held Over CFC Smuggling** (Japan)

Police and Tokyo customs officials said Thursday they have arrested two men on suspicion of trying to smuggle some 6 tons of chlorofluorocarbon, a controlled ozone-depleting substance, into Japan. Noboru Sakurai, 44, a broker of imported goods, and Takafumi Fukuie, 56, a self-styled financier, are suspected of violating the Customs Law by attempting to illegally import the CFCs in cans, police and customs officials said. According to police, Sakurai and Fukuie attempted to smuggle some 24,000 cans of CFCs on a containership that arrived at Oi pier in Tokyo's Shinagawa Ward around July 10 from Vietnam. Each can contained 250 grams of CFC. The two had made a customs declaration stating the containers' contents were paint cans, but customs officers at the pier discovered the containers carried CFC cans. The import of the CFCs is banned, but the gas is still used in air conditioners of older model cars. The CFCs fetch a high price on the black market as there are some 20 million such cars in Japan. Some 500 grams of CFCs is used per car. Police said the two sold at least 100,000 cans of CFCs to automobile maintenance shops through intermediary agents since March and made some 300 million yen in profits.

**Article @:** <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20020726b5.htm>

**Source:** The Japan Times, 26 July 2002

### 2- **Asthma Groups at Odds Over New Drug** (New Zealand)

Two leading asthma support groups have clashed over claims about the safety of a new asthma drug. Pharmac, the Government's drugs buyer, proposes to subsidise the inhaled steroid drug Beclazone from October 1. It will be supplied by AirFlow Products, a subsidiary of the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation. But Asthma New Zealand has attacked Beclazone as a "cheap and nasty drug". Beclazone contains CFCs and beclomethasone, the same active component used in some other inhaled asthma drugs, including Becotide and Becloforte, used by 30,000 New Zealand asthmatics. Maker GlaxoSmithKline is withdrawing these two Pharmac-subsidised drugs because they contain CFCs. It is urging patients to ask their doctors about switching to another of its inhaled steroids, Flixotide, which is CFC-free and used by more than 100,000 people. It is also subsidised. Pharmac said in April that a CFC-free drug supplied by AirFlow would be available by October, subject to registration by the Health Ministry ...

**Article @:** <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=2098464&thesection=news&thesubsection=general>

**Source:** The New Zealand Herald, 19 July 2002, By Martin Johnston

### 3- **USEPA SNAP Listing of Substitutes in the Foam Sector**

This action lists acceptable and unacceptable substitutes for ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) in the foam blowing sector under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. Today's action: Withdraws the proposed decision to list HCFC- 22 and HCFC-142b as unacceptable substitutes for existing users; lists HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b as unacceptable substitutes for HCFC-141b in rigid polyurethane/polyisocyanurate laminated boardstock, rigid polyurethane appliance foam, and rigid polyurethane spray foam applications; lists HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b as acceptable substitutes for HCFC-141b, with narrowed use limits (users must ascertain and document that other acceptable alternatives are not technically feasible) in commercial refrigeration and sandwich panel applications and in the rigid polyurethane slabstock and other foams end-use; and lists HCFC-124 as an unacceptable substitute in all foam end-uses. At this time, EPA is deferring final action on its proposed decision to list HCFC-141b as an unacceptable foam blowing agent. Effective Date: 21 August 2002.

**Contact:** Jeff Cohen, [cohen.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:cohen.jeff@epa.gov)

**Text @:** <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/foams/FRM10%20foams.pdf>

**Source:** Federal Register / Vol. 67, No. 140 / Monday, July 22, 2002 / Rules and Regulations

#### 4- Campaign Against Skin Cancer

GENEVA - The World Health Organization stepped up a campaign against skin cancer on Tuesday with guidelines to tell people when it is safe to sunbathe. An internationally agreed ultraviolet index (UVI), showing the intensity of potentially cancer-causing rays, has been in use for years, but the interpretation given to its readings has often differed from country to country ... The new 'Global Solar UV Index' sets out a simple set of indices, with the relevant action to take, that can be adopted anywhere in the world ... Although changes in people's behavior are mainly to blame, the risks have been increased by climate change and the observed thinning of the earth's ozone layer ...

**Article @:** [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20020723/hl\\_nm/cancer\\_skin\\_dc\\_1](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20020723/hl_nm/cancer_skin_dc_1)

**Source:** Yahoo News (Reuters) 23 July 2002, By: Richard Waddington

**OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

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

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If you have questions, comments, ideas for future articles, or you want to discontinue receiving this update, please contact: Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. (+33) 1 44371452 Email: [samira.degobert@unep.fr](mailto:samira.degobert@unep.fr)

Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, *Information Assistant*  
Reviewer: Jim Curlin, *Information Officer*