



REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT CANADA

Media Release

REFRIGERATION INDUSTRY CREATES LEADERSHIP THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM FOR OZONE LAYER PROTECTION

February 12, 2001 - TORONTO - Leading companies from the refrigeration and air conditioning industry today announced a new program that is expected to dramatically reduce the quantity of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that are released into the atmosphere.

The industry-led initiative, organized through a new non-profit extended producer responsibility corporation called Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC) will see the safe and environmentally-responsible collection and disposal of CFC chemicals used in many large air conditioning and commercial refrigeration systems.

"The federal and provincial governments in Canada are committed to eliminating the use of CFC refrigerants over the next 10 years," said Rick Jones, Chair of the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI), "and the creation of RMC brings the industry that much closer to meeting this objective."

"The production and importation of CFCs in Canada was eliminated in 1995," said Mr. Jones. "The current challenge is for Canada to eliminate the use of the chemicals and ensure the current inventory is safely recaptured and disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner."

RMC's mandate is to do just that. The program is funded by an environmental levy submitted by refrigerant manufacturers, importers and reclaimers on sales of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) refrigerants. HCFCs are alternative refrigerants to CFCs with a lower ozone-depleting potential that will be phased out of production worldwide over the next 30 years. HCFCs are currently used in many air conditioning and refrigeration applications.

"This endeavor is an excellent example of industry taking the initiative to reduce the destruction of the earth's ozone layer," said Environment Minister David Anderson. "Reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs will protect the ozone layer and therefore protect the health of Canadians."

"The ozone layer and Canadians' health still needs protection. RMC is an important step in strengthening that protection," said Beatrice Olivastri, CEO, Friends of the Earth Canada.

Refrigerant Management Canada was established by the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada, who represent leading manufacturers, reclaimers, wholesalers, and contractors in the Canadian refrigeration and air conditioning industry. The RMC program is strongly supported by Environment Canada and Friends of the Earth Canada.

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