



Updating Saskatchewan's Ozone-depleting Substances Program

In 1993, in response to the Montreal Protocol, Saskatchewan brought forward the *Ozone-depleting Substances Control Act and Regulations*. This legislation and the regulations were designed to be proactive. This means that before one can handle ozone-depleting substances they must be trained in their proper use, handling and disposal.

The Montreal Protocol is an international document outlining the controls needed to protect the ozone layer from releases of materials such as refrigerants. The Montreal Protocol was drafted in 1987 and is updated yearly to address new concerns as they arise. This in turn requires Saskatchewan to update its regulations to incorporate the amendments in the Montreal Protocol.

Saskatchewan has amalgamated the Ozone-depleting Substances Control Act into the Environmental Management and Protection Act (EMPA2002). EMPA2002 introduces the term halocarbon to the regulatory scheme. Halocarbon is a new term that generally describes the chemical makeup of the refrigerants. It is the intent that halocarbon will replace the ozone-depleting substance reference in the legislation and regulations. As a result the province will be able to respond more rapidly to alternative refrigerants and industry changes as they arise.

Regulations supporting and expanding upon the legislation are being developed. The new regulations will incorporate the requirements of the National Action Plan for the Environmental Control of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) and their Halocarbon Alternatives. These changes will ensure that Saskatchewan stays current with industry practices and continues to maintain its commitment to protect the ozone layer. The new regulations are to be drafted by the spring of 2003.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act (EMPA2002) came into effect October 1, 2002. Copies of EMPA2002 are available through the Queen's Printer at the following address:

Queen's Printer
1st floor, 1871 Smith Street
Regina, SK S4P 3V7
Canada

Phone: (306)-787-6894
Fax: (306)-787-9779
Toll free: 1-800-227-7302
Email: qprinter@justice.gov.sk.ca

Or at the following web address:

<http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=details&c=245541>

Inquiries regarding the regulations may be directed to Roger Hodges at 306-787-9301 or rhodges@serm.gov.sk.ca.



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