



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

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EFCTC ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF www.figaroo.org A UNIQUE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON THE F-GAS REGULATION

EFCTC CONTRIBUTION TO NOBEL-WINNING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES RECOGNISED

This year's Nobel Peace Prize is shared by Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](http://www.ipcc.ch)), including its contributors. Since the inception of IPCC in 1990, [EFCTC members](#) have made significant contributions to its work as authors and reviewers of Assessments and Reports.

Source: [IPCC](http://www.ipcc.ch)

COMPRESSOR MANUFACTURER HONOURED BY AN US EPA BEST-OF-THE-BEST OZONE DEPLETION AWARD

Having developed an [HFC-134a](#) refrigerant based world-class energy efficient chiller compressor employing an innovative technology, a US compressor manufacturer was honoured by the coveted [US EPA Best-of-the-Best Stratospheric Ozone Protection award, in recognition of the company's](#) achievements in helping restore the ozone layer.

Earlier, the company had already been a leader in phasing-out CFCs from air-conditioning systems worldwide, and offering HFC solutions in refrigeration and air-conditioning in commercial and residential systems.

Best-of-the-Best awards were announced to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and nominees were evaluated by the [US EPA](#) staff and judged by an international panel representing industry, government and non-governmental organizations.

Source: Equipment Manufacturer

HCFCs ACCELERATED PHASE-OUT DECISION WILL HAVE A CLIMATE IMPACT OF MORE THAN 50% OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL TARGET

Potential emissions of [HCFCs](#), which were developed as CFC substitutes but are also ODS ([ozone depleting substances](#)), would be cut in half with the [Montreal Protocol decision](#) of the September 2007 MOP (Meeting of the Parties) to accelerate the freeze and phase-out of HCFCs.



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This acceleration will play an important role in mitigating the impact of GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions on climate change, besides assisting in the recovery of the ozone layer. It could, over the coming decades deliver cumulative emission reductions over 3.5% of current global greenhouse gases emissions.

This amount can be compared to the [Kyoto Protocol](#) target of cutting developed country emissions by 5.2% by 2012.

The [TEAP report on HCFC Emissions Reduction Benefits](#) also concludes that this impact could be even greater if accompanied by the recovery and destruction of old equipment and insulating foam and by improvements in energy efficiency.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director commented that *"final savings in terms of greenhouse gas emissions could amount to several billions of tonnes illustrating the complementarities of international environmental agreements"*.

See [Details of the decided Adjustments](#).

Source: <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Publications/20Anniversary-press-release.pdf>
and
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=517&ArticleID=5671&l=en>

HFC BLOWN INSULATING FOAM SELECTED FOR ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN US REFRIGERATORS

HFC blown [rigid polyurethane insulating foam](#) has been selected by a leading US appliances manufacturer, for its [energy-efficient](#) characteristics.

This insulating foam helps meeting strict energy-consumption standards without increasing wall thickness, which would reduce storage capacity or require a larger exterior cabinet design.

HFC blown insulating foams are designed to meet demanding [environmental and energy standards](#) and have been used for many years to help appliances achieve the [US Energy Star](#) ratings.

Industry experts estimate that since 2000 the energy efficiency of an average refrigerator has improved by 35%.

Source: Material Supplier



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SF₆ SUCCESSFULLY USED IN EYE SURGERY

Two papers describe the usefulness of [SF₆](#) injections for special eye surgery.

In the first case, vitreoretinal surgeons are introducing sulfur hexafluoride into the vitreous cavity as a temporary tamponade in detached retina surgery.

A gas bubble is deliberately left within the eye as it helps keeping the retina attached whilst adhesions develop, sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) being one of the most commonly used gases, selected for their [chemical inertness](#). By varying the concentration, volume and kind of gas used, bubbles can be produced that will last up to 70 days before being completely resorbed.

In the second case, a study showed that SF₆ gas injection into the anterior chamber of the eye is leading to an early reduction in symptoms of corneal edema, compared to conventional therapy.

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) gas for treating corneal edema brought its early resolution after 4 weeks follow-up, while conventional therapy required 12 weeks, according to the study.

Eyes treated with SF₆ also showed significantly better improvements in central corneal thickness and visual acuity.

Sources : <http://lib.bioinfo.pl/pmid:7206557>
<http://www.osnsupersite.com/view.asp?rID=24213>

NEW ON OUR SITE

[EFCTC PR](#) on the launch of the new website www.figaroo.org sponsored by EFCTC and F-Gas users associations

[Factsheet Nr 16](#): Maximum Recommended Guidance Levels (MRGL) for Organohalogenated Impurities

[ARI](#) Responsible Refrigerant Use Initiative in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)

NEW LINKS ADDED

<http://ozone.unep.org/Events/meetings2008and2009.pdf>

INDICATIVES DATES/VENUES OF FUTURE MONTREAL PROTOCOL MEETINGS IN 2008 AND 2009



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<http://www.hkvsz.hu/index.php?n=old&kod=163&nyelv=Angol>

HRACA - Hungarian Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Association –(in Hungarian
HKVSZ - Hűtő- és Klímatechnikai Vállalkozások Szövetsége)

<http://www.assofrigoristi.it/>

ASSOFRIGORISTI - Associazione Italiana Frigoristi