



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

ISSUE 23 - May 2005

RELEASE OF THE SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS OF THE IPCC "SPECIAL REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING THE OZONE LAYER AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE SYSTEM"

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in collaboration with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), has produced a Special Report entitled "Safeguarding the ozone layer and the global climate system: issues related to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs)".

The [background of the Special Report](#) was the need to understand the role of HFCs in the ODS phase out, and to protect the ozone layer while reducing GHG emissions

The report is the result of two years of work by 145 experts from 35 countries. Its Summary for Policymakers (SPM) has been officially published, after having been approved at the IPCC meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Taken together, the various solutions identified by the report could cut the global warming contribution of CFCs and their replacements in half by the year 2015 (compared with "Business as Usual" scenarios). Specifically, by 2015 HFC contribution to global warming will remain below 1% and will account for around 2 % of global greenhouse gas emissions

The Report will be analyzed in depth in our June 2005 Newsletter.

The Release of the SPM, announced by an [UNEP Press Release](#), was welcomed by [EFCTC](#), [the French AFCE](#), and [EPEE](#).

The IPCC has also [declared unfounded](#) the critics on the Report by a MIPIGGs Newsletter.

EXPLOSION DURING HYDROCARBON "SAFETY" DEMONSTRATION

After a judgment from the Chief Industrial Magistrate's Court in New South Wales, Australia, Dr. Ian Maclaine-Cross of the University of New South Wales, pleaded guilty in regard to two offences relating to an explosion and resultant injuries stemming from a "safety demonstration", that was intended to show that flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants are safe to use in motor vehicles.

The judgment reveals that, having released the hydrocarbon within the vehicle, the defendant proceeded to light a match that ignited the gas and thus caused a burst of flame.



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

The burst of flame was strong enough to bend the four passenger doors, to cause the melting of the interior lining of the roof and doors, and to fracture the passenger side front window of the vehicle into hundreds of thousands of shards each typically of 2 mm in length. The fracture of that side window exposed the closest observers, standing at around 1 m from the vehicle, to burns from the gas flame and cuts from the shards of glass. Fortunately, all those affected have recovered.

WARNING TO CONSUMERS ABOUT HYDROCARBON REFRIGERANTS FOR CAR AIR-CONDITIONING

An alert "**Common Sense in Protecting the Environment Without Endangering Safety - A Warning to Consumers About Hydrocarbon Refrigerants**" has been released by the US EPA and other organizations, warning car and truck drivers to avoid the use of flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants, which are not authorized for this use. In the US, hydrocarbon refrigerants are illegal in [car air-conditioning](#). Leaking air conditioning systems charged with hydrocarbons would pose serious risks of fire or explosion under the hood or inside the passenger compartment.

Industry and authorities are working to phase out the use of CFC-12 refrigerants [already achieved in Europe] and to reduce the emissions of HFC-134a. Hydrocarbon refrigerants are dangerous products being sold to unsuspecting consumers.

No vehicle manufacturer has endorsed or authorized the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants in current production mobile air conditioning systems and no professional or technical association has approved the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants.

Source : <http://www.sae.org/news/releases/05hydrocarbon.htm>

VERLAG "GRUNER + JAHR" NEW COOLING SYSTEM WITH HFC-134a (Hamburg, Germany)

"Gruner +Jahr" is the publisher of more than 120 newspapers and magazines, among them the famous "Stern" and "Geo" magazines. Its corporate building in Hamburg is an impressive architectural achievement, and its air conditioning system had to be renovated.

As 3500 employees are working in the building, despite its good physical characteristics, ammonia would have required drastic safety precautions, in case of even a very improbable leakage. For this reason and after technical and economical comparisons, the refrigerant HFC-134a was finally selected for the project.

A capacity of 5 800 kW cooling has been installed, with 2 machines of each 700 KW and 2 of each 2050 KW.