

EFCTC POSITION

European HFC Producers welcome the agreement on an amendment under the Montreal Protocol in Kigali to control HFCs

The European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee (EFCTC) welcomes the agreement by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to reach an amendment to the Montreal Protocol for a global cap and reduction for HFC consumption and production on a GWP-weighted basis, at the 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda, 10-14th October 2016.

The Montreal Protocol has played a critical role in successfully controlling consumption of CFCs and HCFCs and can provide the necessary expertise to effectively implement a similar system for HFCs

The amendment establishes a clear long-term regulatory framework and time frame to stimulate research, development and deployment to progress at the required speed and for manufacturers of equipment and products to undertake the necessary programmes to adopt lower GWP alternatives.

"The overall global warming impact of HFC emissions worldwide is currently estimated to represent less than 2% of the total global greenhouse gases emissions. Nevertheless, as HFCs are the preferred solution for many societal needs because of their safety and performance advantages, the agreement will help control the increasing demand due to the replacement of HCFCs as well as the rising use of HFCs for refrigeration and air conditioning, especially in developing countries," said Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC. "The final agreement meets the needs of all nations and takes into account industrial planning timescales and the capacity of industry to invest in new lower GWP products and applications."

Encouraging progress is being made by HFC producers to find low GWP alternatives for a range of applications including technical aerosols, mobile air-conditioning, insulating foams and commercial refrigeration. Already a number of alternative fluids have been identified and are already in use; for example, for mobile air-conditioning; an alternative has a GWP of less than 1 compared to a GWP of 1300 for the HFC currently being used.

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The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a Cefic Sector Group that monitors the constantly changing legislation related to HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), PFCs (perfluorinated carbons) and SF₆ (sulphur hexafluoride), CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons), in the EU and at global level.

Fluorocarbons are used as feedstock, as refrigerants, as solvents and as blowing agents for insulation plastic foams.

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