



Changing State of Refrigerants – Digest 2014-10

EPA announces the 2015-2019 allocation levels

What is the allocation?

As prescribed by the Clean Air Act, a phase out schedule for HCFC refrigerants was established in 1990. Per that schedule, production and import rights were to be reduced gradually with a final phase out date of 12-31-2019. The allocation stipulates the amount of product that each stake holder can produce or import in a given year.

The final allocation ruling:

On October 17th The EPA announced the final consumption/allocation for 2015-2019. Starting on January 1 2015, production and Imports will be capped at 22,000,000 lbs. There will be a linear drawdown; reducing the allocation 20% per year, until they reach zero, on January 1, 2020.

2015 = 22,000,000 lbs
2016 = 17,600,000 lbs
2017 = 13,200,000 lbs
2018 = 8,800,000 lbs
2019 = 4,400,000 lbs

Project market demand:

There is no definitive measurement as to future demand; however most experts estimate the service demand in 2015 to be +/- 50,000,000 lbs, with a steady decline as systems are retrofitted or retired.

What are the options:

Moving forward, commercial and residential customers will have a variety of retrofit options available. The timing of the retrofit and the ultimate choice will vary greatly, depending on the age and complexity of the system, and the size of the refrigerant charge.

HFC/Hydrocarbon Blends: R422A,B,C,D or R438A, will be relatively easy to apply in small systems where an oil change is not practical and reasonable loss in capacity can be tolerated

Pure HFC Blends: R407A, F (Refrigeration) & R407C, R427A (Air Conditioning) will provide comparable performance to R22, but will require a conversion to POE oil. The GWP (global warming potential) will also need to be part of the decision. R407C and R407F are the lowest GWP replacements

For more info go to <http://www.rsd.net/refrigerantsuite/index.php> or call 800-245-8007 ex 00405