



Changing State of Refrigerants – Digest 2018-10

California roles out proposal to Reduce HFC Emissions

CARB Workshop spells out the plan

On October 24th the California Air Resources Board conducted a workshop to present their plan to regulate and reduce the use of HFC refrigerants. This is part of an overall plan to reduce GHG (Green House Gas) emissions – 40% by 2030. This plan will also reinstate parts of EPA SNAP Rule-20 that was vacated earlier this year - See Digest 2017-8

What is the Plan?

For Stationary Air Conditioning: Effective January 1, 2023, there would be a ban on New A/C systems using a refrigerant greater than 750 GWP (Global Warming Potential). This will eliminate most commercially available refrigerants including R410A that has a GWP of 1924.

For Stationary Refrigeration: Effective January 1, 2022 any new system with a refrigerant charge greater than 50 lbs, would be limited to Refrigerants with a GWP of 150 or below. Based on current technology and building codes only Co2 (R744) would be acceptable. If Building and Fire codes can be changed, Ammonia (R717) or mildly flammable A2L HFO refrigerant blends could also be used.

Building and Fire Codes; currently limit the charge size on A2L refrigerants to 150 grams (5.35 oz). As a consequence, significant code changes and safety requirements would be needed to permit use of these products on a larger scale.

Sales Restrictions: Effective January 1, 2022, there would be a sales, distribution and import ban on any refrigerant with a GWP greater than 1500. There could be exemptions for the use of reclaimed refrigerants in refrigeration, and R410A in Air Conditioning.

Public work shops and Stake Holder meetings will continue thru Mid-2019. A 45-day public comment period is planned for February 2020. With the final rule is expected in Q2-2020.

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