

Press Release

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The changing market for Refrigerants

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No: 48/12

Release date: **Immediate**

Refrigerants Hot Topic Press Release

The slow but relentless progress towards environmental protection through the reduction of harmful emissions has had significant effects on the HVAC industry. Some classes of refrigerant gases, a fundamental component of air conditioning and refrigeration systems, may cause damages to the earth atmosphere or contribute to Global Warming and for this reason their consumption has been reduced or banned altogether.

The Kyoto (1997) and Montreal Protocols (1989) initiated a global multi-lateral process which should lead to a progressive reduction in production and consumption of gases with Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP). While the phasing out of the HVAC ODP gases, also known as HCFC (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons) is under way in most countries of the world, the removal of the gases with high GWP has a less defined timescale and several challenges.

BSRIA's recently released report summarises the key developments in the regulation on refrigerants primarily in the European Union, which is at the forefront in the implementation of the multilateral agreements on climate change. It also formulates hypothesis on the future policies and analyses their implications on the HVAC market.

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The EU is in the process of revising its F-gas regulation on refrigerant production, handling and disposal. The detailed content of the revision, which is due in Autumn 2012.

North America, one of the largest contributors to Global Warming, has only recently implemented a policy of phasing out of the ODP gases in compliance with international multilateral agreements. Its approach to regulation of GWP gas consumption is less radical than the EU and is likely to consist of a combination of measures favouring a gradual reduction rather than a drastic cut in the use of harmful gases.

China is the global production hub for air conditioning and refrigeration. Its huge domestic market is still to be harmonised to the agreements in the Montreal Protocol. However, most of the local Chinese HVAC production is exported. For this reason, the Chinese manufacturers look closely at the development of legislation in other countries, while most countries look closely at the new manufacturing solutions adopted in China, which may affect the rest of the world.

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Note to Editors:

The information for this article has been taken from BSRIA's Worldwide Hot Topic Market Intelligence studies.

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