



Changing State of Refrigerants – Digest 2014-8

The EPA is considering the removal of SNAP approval for selected HFC Refrigerants.

What is SNAP?

The Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program is EPA's program to evaluate and regulate substitutes for the ozone-depleting chemicals that are being phased out under the Clean Air Act. In essence it determines if a product is approved for use in a specific application.

What is the Proposal?

Although HFC's are non-ozone depleting chemicals, with no scheduled phase out date, new studies have determined that they have High Global Warming Potential (High-GWP). As a consequence, they are considering a removal of SNAP approval, which would curtail the installed base for these products.

R134A: Internationally there are already regulations in place to phase out the use of R134a in automotive air conditioning and aerosol applications. The Proposed EPA action would have the follow effect:

Aerosol Propellants: R134a would be unacceptable starting January 2016.

- Some medical and technical applications would be except

Stand Alone Refrigeration and Vending Machines: R134a would be unacceptable starting January 2016.

Automotive: R134a would unacceptable starting with Model year 2021

R404A/R507A: Both products are now considered to have the Highest-GWP of any commercially available HFC refrigerant blend. The Proposed EPA action would have the follow effect:

Stand Alone Refrigeration and Vending Machines: R404A and R507A would be unacceptable starting January 2016, in new and retrofit retail food refrigeration (including direct and secondary loop systems), stand alone cases and vending machines.

Other Refrigerants: There are a number of other less popular refrigerants that would also be regulated by this change:

R407B, R421B, R422A,C D, R428A and R434A: will be unacceptable in new systems starting 2016.

R414B, R416A: Will be unacceptable in Automotive in 2017.

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