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MOPIA's AGM is April 23



MOPIA's 18th Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday, April 23rd at 7:15 pm at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Neil Armstrong, Apprenticeship Coordinator. You are encouraged to attend and it's FREE!

MOPIA's Annual Report including financial information will be presented to our stakeholders.

In addition, there are openings on our Board and candidates who'd like to qualify for the Board must first become a steward member (\$45) to become nominated and face election by our voting members. If you would like more information, contact MOPIA or visit our website.

MOPIA to Issue a New 2012 Compliance Guide

MOPIA has decided to issue a revamped and updated version of our pocket size regulation compliance guide. The booklet was a useful tool for everyone from certified techs to refrigerant wholesalers. Past versions highlighted the key regulatory responsibilities and answered common questions from among the various industry sectors. The new version will follow a similar format.

Believe it or not, the booklet was last issued in 1999 and so anyone who has been certified since that time has not likely seen the hand guide. And, since 1999, there have been changes within the industry including some new regulatory and Federal Code of Practice approaches.

While the paper version of the compliance guide has a significant environmental and financial footprint, we hope to efficiently produce it with green production and making it available on-line so re-prints are minimized.

If you have any thoughts or ideas what you'd like within the new guide, let us know. We hope to have it complete and ready for distribution during the 2012-2013 certification renewal period which begins in early June 2012.

Buyers of Refrigerant Beware!



MOPIA would like to alert anyone buying regulated refrigerant(s) that you have legal responsibilities. First, you must have a Secondary Distributor Permit (for companies) or certification (technicians) for purchasing or importing any regulated refrigerant into Manitoba. Second, you must detail, log and record the purchase. You should also verify that the cylinders meet Transport Canada specifications (i.e. hydrostatic test date and other transport requirements). Ensure that the refrigerant is from a reliable and traceable source as contaminated and illegal or smuggled product widely exists. MOPIA learned this at a session we attended at the last Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol. Also note, certain products have been seen to be wrongfully labeled (i.e. the refrigerant cylinder label may not be what is contained within). Most cylinders have a (returnable) core charge so be suspicious if they do not. Cylinders should also be refillable and/or recyclable and only sold in containers 22 lbs. or greater.

If you have information or a tip about potentially illegal product(s) or persons or companies selling or buying regulated products, cylinder or transport issues please contact Manitoba Conservation (Environment Officers), Environment Canada or Transport Canada. They are in the best position to investigate and/or lay charges where there is a breach of or regulatory non-compliance.

Transport Canada 1.888.463.0521
 Environment Canada 1.800.668.6767

www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/3617-e-oansupplement6IllegalTrade.pdf



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Next MOPIA Certification Training Session is April 21

The date for MOPIA's next certification training session is on Saturday, April 21. The class is a one day event offered from 8:30 am – 6 pm (approx.) and cost is \$175.00/pp.

Contact MOPIA for a registration form or obtain it on our website.

The next training date will be set soon, likely for late May.

Transport Canada Cylinder Requirements/Standards

Gas cylinders are regulated in Canada by the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDGR). Section 5.10 of these Regulations requires that cylinders be manufactured and used in accordance with several Standards under CSA-B339 and CSA-B340. CSA-B339 Standard describes the specifications to which cylinders must be manufactured and tested whereas the CSA-B340 Standard describes the selection of the required cylinder and its use depending on the gas being transported.

Any cylinder made after December 31, 1992 must meet the requirements of CSA B339 and be marked with "TC". Cylinders manufactured before 1993 are authorized for use in Canada if they were marked with "DOT" or "ICC" in accordance with 49 CFR. Other authorized markings on cylinders made after December 31, 1992 are "CRC", "BTC", and "CTC".

The requalification requirements for cylinders are prescribed in Clause 24 of CSA B339-02. Recycled and recovered refrigerant gases are considered to be corrosive due to possible contamination and cylinders containing such gases must be re-qualified in accordance with the basic requalification procedures and periods specified in Table 24.1 of CSA B339 (Table 25 of CSA B339-08). The basic requalification procedure is a hydrostatic retest combined with both an internal and external visual inspection. Companies that do this are listed on their website – the cost to re-test is approx. \$35. Reclaimed refrigerant gases are not considered corrosive and cylinders used for such gases can benefit from alternative requalification procedures such as an external visual inspection only. The terms "recycled", "recovered", and "reclaimed" in relation to refrigerant gas are defined in Clause 3 of CSA B339.

Trucks Carrying/Transporting Cylinders – In general, you are allowed to transport up to 150 kgs. or 5-6 30lb cylinders of refrigerant in any one truck before requiring Transport Canada placarding and documentation. Remember, 150 kgs. is the key weight threshold for small service vehicles (i.e. company vans or similar).

Visit the Transport Canada FAQ website at:

www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/moc-cylinder-faqoncylinders-473.html

Mercury Switches Collected

Did you know that mercury is the only metal that, when in pure form, is liquid at ambient room temperature. Mercury conducts electricity and expands evenly in response to pressure or temperature changes. Due to its unique properties, mercury is used in a wide variety of applications. These properties have made mercury a widely used material in household, commercial, medical and industrial uses.

However, mercury is toxic, it bioaccumulates and is a persistent heavy metal that has impacts on the environment and human health.

In response to this, a National program called Switch Out was initiated and is dedicated to the removal, collection and management of mercury-containing switches. The switches recovered through the national program are counted, documented, retorted and recycled.

At present, the program collects only designated switches. Mercury switches are known to exist in a variety of applications including fridges, freezers, various auto parts and convenience lighting.

See the program details at: www.switchout.ca

www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/waste/programs.html

<http://switchthestat.ca/eng/index.php>

Regulatory Corner

MOPIA often receives questions regarding Manitoba's Ozone Protection Program and the Regulation 103/94.

A common question we get is this...

Can hydrocarbons be used in various air conditioning systems?

Potentially, if the manufacturer specifications or equipment is designed or allows for them, in compliance with building, industry or insurance codes and when any remaining regulated refrigerant is first properly recovered from the unit. Adding hydrocarbons into a system still containing a HCFC or HFC is not permitted as this is cross contaminating a systems refrigerant.

Upcoming Events

April 13 **UNEP OzonAction Webinar** on Monitoring and Controlling Trade in HCFC's
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/937330366>

April 24 **Better Buildings Conference and Expo**
www.biztradeshows.com/trade-events/isk-sodex.html

June 12-12 – **Atmosphere America 2012**
www.atmo.org/events.details.php?eventid=5