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December 15, 2011 #101

MOPIA Attends 23rd MOP



MOPIA attended the 23rd Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol meetings held last month 21-25 November in Bali, Indonesia. Michael Blackley (pictured above), member of our ExCom and Mark Miller (Executive Director) attended the plenary and high level segments of the meetings, as well as, participated in several side-events hosted by a the United Nations, various non-government organizations and industry. They also informally dialogued with many delegates, industry and NGO representatives, highlighting activities in Manitoba.

The meeting heard strong opposition particularly by India and certain other nations (Venezuela, China) to include even discussion about including HFC's into the framework of the Montreal Protocol They fiercely stated that the Kyoto Protocol should only deal with these chemicals. This dashed any hopes for two proposed amendments, including one by Canada, the USA and Mexico, to include HFC's and an associated phase-down timetable, to be discussed at this meeting.

There were some 25 decisions made at the meeting and include an agreement to replenish the financial fund of the Montreal Protocol by developed nations for the years 2012-2014 to the tune of \$450 million, the mitigation of ODS emissions from feedstock and process-agents among others. The meeting was characterized as among the most intense and diplomatically confrontational leading to no formal controls on HFC's, of which, many were anticipating.

See: www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop23/

Your Opportunity to Comment on the draft/updated Federal Code of Practice

Environment Canada has released its (draft) updated Environmental Code of Practice for the Elimination of Fluorocarbon Emissions from Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment. They are looking for your comments and suggestions before December 23, 2011.

This is the first time the Code has been overhauled since 1996 and is significantly improved to address climate change substances, energy efficiency, refrigerant recovery techniques among many other issues.

See the draft Code at:

www.ec.gc.ca/air/default.asp?lang=En&n=E702A47B-1

2011 Kyoto Protocol Meeting

As the UN Kyoto Protocol meetings happened in Durban, South Africa earlier this month, Canada announced its intent to withdrawal from the set targets first proclaimed under the Kyoto Protocol and its' position of not committing to a second Kyoto period.

Canada and China were at odds at much of the meetings. China later hinted they may be willing to set targets after 2020. See the meeting summary best at:

www.iisd.ca/climate/cop17/



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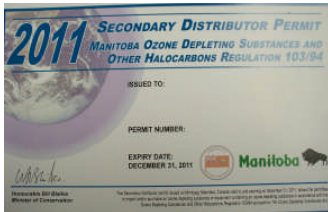




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Secondary Distributor Renewals



MOPIA has recently launched our renewal to those who hold a Secondary Distributor Permit.

These are permits issued to companies who import or purchase in the province regulated products from refrigerants to parts connected to the closed refrigerant loop.

All wholesalers, auto dealers, refrigeration companies, Agriculture implement franchises and similar will require to renew their permits in December. MOPIA will be sending out renewals the first week of December. The annual fee is \$50 and the permit is valid for a period up to a year beginning January 1 of each year.

Hydrocarbon use 10% in Mobile Sector in Australia

MOPIA learned at a side-event held at the 23rd MOP in Bali, Indonesia that hydrocarbon use in the mobile air conditioning sector in Australia was reaching 10% and is growing.

OKO, an Australian based auto manufacturer, is the first OEM vehicle manufacturer in the world to select hydrocarbons for use in their vehicle air conditioning production lines.

www.hydrocarbons21.com/content/articles/121920111201.php

Hydrocarbon use in vehicle air conditioning in Canada has not gained acceptance. At present, many insurance carriers are leary of the potential liability of its use due to its flammability characteristics and due to the reluctance of OEM's to recognize or accept these products. In time, this may change if safety is not seen as compromised and as OEM's and the industry becomes more aware of the technical procedures and attributes.



Atmosphere 2012

MOPIA has learned that an Atmosphere 2012 event will be held in June 2012 in Washington DC. It will be hosted by Belgium based Shecco, a communications company assisting the natural refrigerants industry.



Natural refrigerants include hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide and ammonia.
See: www.atmo.org

Next Certification Training Class

MOPIA's has yet to set our next certification training session date. However, you can place yourself or others on our waiting list and that will allow us to set a date as soon as we have 6 or more persons interested. These classes are one day events and run from 8:30 am – 6 pm (approx.) and costs \$178.50/pp.

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

Regulatory Corner

MOPIA often receives questions regarding Manitoba's Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation.

Here are some quick Q&A's on common questions.

1. Does HFC 134a need to be recorded on our record data sheets?

Yes, HFC's are regulated substances and its use must be recorded. Your records must be submitted to MOPIA for the calendar year before February 1 or each year.

2. Can hydrocarbons be sold to uncertified persons, as I see them at retail outlets across Manitoba?

Yes, hydrocarbons are unregulated substances and may be sold to consumers. However, these same products sold to uncertified consumers must not be added to a system without first having the original or remaining regulated refrigerant within a system recovered properly by a certified technician. Otherwise it creates a cocktail and is contrary to the regulation and likely may damage equipment.

3. How many people are certified in Manitoba?

There are approximately 5,300 persons.