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## Manitoba's Warm Winter Temperatures - a Prelude of Climate Change?



By now, everyone across Manitoba has experienced a year of unprecedented weather (+6C in January) let alone the rest of the world. From the USA and Australia (experiencing wild fires and tornados), the Netherlands, Phillipines, Russia and India (floods) and drought in parts of Africa.

You will remember our province had devastating floods during Spring (2011) in the southwest (i.e. Brandon) all the way to the Interlake and a prolonged drought in the east. While this may seem like a random act of global weather, it may be linked to climate change in the bigger picture.

Despite your own personal opinion, many convincing facts are available to show how certain chemicals are interacting with the earths' atmosphere. On a broader scale though, one must dive deeper and understand how the ecosystem is reacting to these climatic events. For example, drought will mean less or no mosquitos, but these pests are food within the food chain to birds and bats and other prey that rely on a diversified diet. Floods on the other hand interrupt spawning and leach land based chemicals into the aquamarine environment.

Biodiversity of all plants and animals will become among the most important aspect of human survival in the generations to come. Learn more on biodiversity at these excellent websites:

- <http://canadianbiodiversity.mcgill.ca/>
- [www.unep.org/themes/biodiversity/](http://www.unep.org/themes/biodiversity/)
- [www.iisd.ca/process/biodiv\\_wildlife.htm](http://www.iisd.ca/process/biodiv_wildlife.htm)

What is the difference between weather and climate:

[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/noaa-n/climate/climate\\_weather.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/noaa-n/climate/climate_weather.html)

## MOPIA Comments on Draft Federal Code of Practice

Environment Canada released its updated (draft) Environmental Code of Practice for the Elimination of Fluorocarbon Emissions from Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment for comment in late 2011. MOPIA encouraged stakeholders to comment on the draft and hopefully some final thoughts will be incorporated into the final text.

MOPIA recommended a number of improvements including some technical elements such as harmonizing the class of refrigerants as defined in Manitoba, further highlighting hydrocarbon refrigerants and their references, detailing Refrigerant Management Canada and explaining that certification is not entirely interprovincial.

The final version of the Code is anticipated to be released sometime in mid-2012 and when it is, MOPIA will make it known along with summarizing some of the key changes.

You may still see the draft Code at:

[www.ec.gc.ca/air/default.asp?lang=En&n=E702A47B-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/air/default.asp?lang=En&n=E702A47B-1)

## Transparency & Accountability

MOPIA is determined to be responsible, accountable and highly efficient by being an open and transparent not-for-profit organization, while protecting the privacy of our members and stakeholders.

MOPIA has engaged in an independent audit and/or review of our annual financial state since 1994 and has always made this data available to our membership and stakeholders at our AGM and in our written Annual Reports. MOPIA is your multi-stakeholder organization, and members are entitled to this information, always.

MOPIA strives to elicit input from our stakeholders and actively engages in awareness platforms via on-site community consultations, facebook, through our website and twitter. Let us know how we can improve or what area(s) we fall short. Be Part of the Solution as we aim for the stratosphere!

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## Hydrocarbons Approved for Use in Appliances in the USA



In the United States, a landmark decision was announced in December that potentially opens the door for the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants in small commercial and household refrigerators and freezers.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Significant New Alternatives Program (SNAP) added three hydrocarbons (propane, isobutene and 441A) as acceptable as alternatives with use conditions replacing CFC 12 and HCFC 22 in household refrigerators, freezers, combination units and commercial stand-alone units.

While hydrocarbons are generally safe to use under the proper conditions, US EPA made various recommendations with their decision including additional technician training on the handling of these refrigerants and equipment maintenance.

In Canada, Environment Canada does not authorize, endorse or recognize refrigerants or their alternatives but rather regulates certain substances in compliance with The Montreal Protocol and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and other trade based organizations have standards and codes that dictate appropriate industry protocols.

Generally, Canada follows suit with the US on these matters as international trade and commerce are at play. However, other dynamics may come into play as certain safety or labour codes may require consultation or amendment as hydrocarbons do have a flammability characteristic. Canada's B52 Mechanical Refrigeration Code has restrictions on hydrocarbon use. See: [www.csa.ca/documents/CSA-Bulletin-HC-2417561-en.pdf](http://www.csa.ca/documents/CSA-Bulletin-HC-2417561-en.pdf)

See: [www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/)  
[www.cama-online.ca/home/index.html](http://www.cama-online.ca/home/index.html)  
[www.hydrocarbons21.com/content/articles/122820111219.php](http://www.hydrocarbons21.com/content/articles/122820111219.php)

## Secondary Distributor Permits

A Permit is required for those who import or purchase in the province regulated products from refrigerants to parts connected to the closed refrigerant loop. These include wholesalers, auto dealers, refrigeration companies, Agriculture implement franchises and the like. Call MOPIA for more information.

## Remembering a Past Chair - Trevor Rees



MOPIA regrets to announce the passing this December (17<sup>th</sup>) of one of our former Board and Executive members, Mr. Trevor Rees. Mr. Rees was a business executive who represented various industry sectors and later went on to work as a Vice President and General Manager for Coldstream Products.

Trevor was one of MOPIA's early stakeholders and was known as a diplomat and very knowledgeable. He had a history of volunteerism with various organizations. Trevor served as MOPIA's President from 1996 – 1997. He died at the age of 60 from cancer.

## Next Certification Training Class

MOPIA's has yet to confirm 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 7 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. When do refrigerant records need to be in?

Your refrigerant use records must be submitted to MOPIA (via fax, email or mail) for the calendar year before February 1 of each year.

### 2. Are MOPIA Board members paid?

No, they all volunteer their time and expertise but do receive complimentary refreshments and light meals when attending meetings. Any MOPIA steward member can become nominated for a Board position prior to our AGM (19 March, 2012).