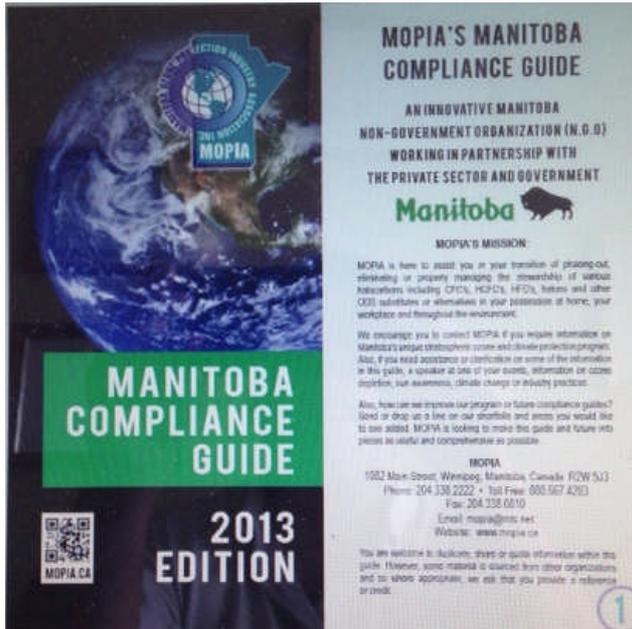


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## MOPIA Releases Manitoba's 2013 Compliance Guide



MOPIA was pleased to release its' 2013 edition of the Manitoba Compliance Guide -- live now on-line at [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca), a few short weeks ago. The user friendly guide highlights the background of Manitoba's innovative ozone protection initiative and many of the key regulatory responsibilities for service technicians who service refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

MOPIA began issuing the original format of this booklet in print copy only back in 1994. Several updated versions were issued since then and now we offer it free to everyone on-line. In an effort to reduce our environmental footprint, hard print copies have not been created and this significantly reduces our costs as well. Printing alone likely would have cost upwards of \$10,000 with distribution costs doubling this amount.

We are looking for new information and suggestions on how to improve our guide in time for an earlier (April 2014) release of the 2014 edition. Let us know what we can do to improve and enhance the guide. As you can see we do not have any advertisements as MOPIA is an independent NGO not beholden to any specific corporate interests. MOPIA's unique approach allows us to provide all sides and awareness to all without favoritism or financial interest.

## MOPIA Issues a New Consumer Awareness Bulletin on A/C



**RECHARGING YOUR AIR CONDITIONING?**

# DON'T D.I.Y.

DO IT RIGHT

Under Manitoba Law, the improper handling, mixing or release of regulated refrigerants (even by accident) carries penalties up to \$50,000 and/or six months imprisonment on the first offense.

*Your home or automobile air conditioning units (and refrigerator and freezer) are equipped with refrigerants that are available to consumers at retail outlets. When you buy cansisters of 'top up' refrigerant, complete with 'do it yourself' connectors, you're taking significant risks.*

- ⊗ **MIXING REFRIGERANTS MAY DAMAGE YOUR EQUIPMENT**  
When you mix factory installed refrigerant with 'off the shelf' refrigerants, you may cause damage to the compressor unit of your air conditioner (the most expensive piece of the unit) or other parts.
- ⊗ **MIXING REFRIGERANTS IS BOTH DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL**  
Each refrigerant has its own characteristics. Blending and mixing refrigerants can cause potentially dangerous chemical reactions, and is illegal in Manitoba. Only trained and certified service technicians are legally allowed to perform refrigerant handling.
- ⊗ **THE ILLEGAL RELEASE OF REFRIGERANTS IS HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT**  
HFC refrigerants have significant global warming potentials. Some refrigerants, such as propane and ammonia, are potentially flammable or toxic if released.



**CERTIFIED A/C TECHNICIANS FOLLOW THE THREE R's OF REFRIGERANT HANDLING**  
 If you're low on refrigerant, you already have a leak in your air conditioning system. It needs repair -- not 'topping up'. You need a certified technician to do this work.

- ✓ **RECOVER** remaining refrigerant and test for leaks
- ✓ **REPAIR LEAKS** -- permanent repairs, not temporary sealant
- ✓ **RECHARGE** your system with proper refrigerant

*Certified A/C Technicians have the right technology to perform these tasks, and recharge your system with the right refrigerant.*





Visit [mopia.ca/outreach/doitright](http://mopia.ca/outreach/doitright) to learn more.

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In an effort to better inform the public about air conditioning refrigerant-side repairs, MOPIA issued a new consumer awareness Bulletin. The Bulletin highlights elements of A/C refrigerant repairs and the dangers of **Doing It Yourself**.

The general public typically does not have the expertise or specialized equipment to perform refrigerant service on their own A/C systems, whether it be for their own cars, home A/C or even farm tractors. Off-the-shelf refrigerants are being sold in retail outlets across Canada. Consumers must never just add these refrigerants to their HCFC or HFC A/C systems as the system may not have been designed for these type(s) of refrigerant, and creating a cocktail of refrigerants is both potentially unsafe and in contravention of Manitoba's ODS and Other Halocarbons Regulation.

Download this Bulletin at [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca) under the "Issues" tab along the top -- then at the bottom of the list.



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## US EPA Issues News Release on Use of Propane as a Refrigerant

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a News Release in July warning against the use of refrigerant substitutes that pose explosive and fire risks.

From their release: "Home air conditioning systems are not designed to handle propane or other similar flammable refrigerants. The use of these substances poses a potential fire or explosion hazard for homeowners and service technicians.

EPA is aware of incidents that have occurred both overseas and in the U.S. where individuals have been injured as a result of the use of propane and other unapproved refrigerants in air conditioning systems. We are investigating and will take enforcement actions where appropriate. Other names for these unapproved refrigerants include R-290, 22a, 22-A, R-22a, HC-22a, and CARE 40."

See the News Release at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceac8525735900400c27/61416ea839b0618e85257b9b0065aec0!OpenDocument>

## MOPIA to Participate at MOP 25 in Bangkok

The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP 25) to the Montreal Protocol is happening 21-25 October, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand and MOPIA will be there! Meghan Johnson (Chair of the Board of Directors) and Mark Miller (Executive Director) will represent MOPIA at the sessions, as well as, participate in various side-events held by NGO's and UNEP agencies. Key issues and historic amendments are being considered that if implemented will affect our stakeholders. MOPIA will keep you informed and aware of these decisions.

## MOPIA Participated in UNEP OzonAction Webinar

MOPIA participated in a Webinar hosted by UNEP's OzonAction. The August 14 session focused on HFO's. Will they replace HCFC's and HFC's long term? That's still to be seen.

Availability, cost, composition and safety considerations were discussed. HFO's are non-ozone depleting, have little global warming impact but have been attributed with links to acidification of lakes. See:

<http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/InformationResources/OzonActionWebinar/2012/tabid/79382/Default.aspx>

## MOPIA will be in Thompson, Flin Flon and The Pas in September

MOPIA will be in parts of Northern Manitoba in September, continuing our cross-province blitz. We are inviting you to one of our program awareness sessions that are being held in Thompson, Flin Flon and The Pas. Several sessions have already taken place.

Learn about MOPIA's efforts, emerging and new technology, provincial regulatory information and what's happening on the federal and international levels. Ask questions to ensure you are knowledgeable about your regulatory responsibilities. All sessions are free but pre-registration is required as some sites have limited seating. A complimentary breakfast or lunch/refreshments will be provided. Sessions are about an hour long. The registration form along with the dates and locations can be found at [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca) or email us to [execassist@mopia.ca](mailto:execassist@mopia.ca) or fax you one at [mopia@mts.net](mailto:mopia@mts.net)

Thompson	Monday, September 9 at noon
Flin Flon	Tuesday, September 10 at 8 am
The Pas	Tuesday, September 10 at 12 noon

MOPIA is also able to meet with you privately throughout the summer. Let us know if you would like to have a MOPIA rep. visit your shop or inform or speak to your group or association.

## Where's the Sun?

As all Manitobans this summer have noticed, it hasn't been all that hot or too sunny, but what you may not know is that even though there are clouds in the sky there are still harmful ultra violet rays (A and B) reaching you and your skin. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 66,000+ people die every year from skin cancer.

It is often thought that only people who have a lighter skin tone, hair, and eyes need to wear sunscreen, well that is far from the truth. Everyone should wear sunscreen. Even if you have a darker skin tone it is important that you are wearing at least 30 Sun Protection Factor (SPF) sunscreen. The pigment in darker skin blocks a very minimal amount of UV rays, which still allows the majority of the sun's harmful rays to penetrate your skin and cause harm. Wearing sunscreen should be a very vital part of everyone's morning routine. Remember that during overcast weather, we are still affected by UV rays. Wearing sunscreen can help prevent skin cancer and other health conditions. In addition, to help prevent skin cancer, wear loose clothing that cover all exposed skin. Be aware at what time you are outside as the UV ray are most harmful between 11am and 4pm. Seek shade!

