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## MOPIA Attending the 25th MOP 21-25 October in Bangkok

The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol is taking place in Bangkok, Thailand 21-25 October.

MOPIA will be sending two officials including our Chairperson of the Board of Director's, Meghan Johnson and Executive Director, Mark Miller. They will be attending all sessions including any side-events that have in-past been hosted by the United Nations or prominent non-government organizations. They will both liaise and share information with delegates on Manitoba's approach on ODS and Industry stewardship along with return home with the most current information on climate science, product innovations and Montreal Protocol decisions. See: <http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop/mop-25/presession/default.aspx>

This Meeting is setting up to be among the most significant in terms of consideration of amendments to the Montreal Protocol. With recent developments and announcements by US President Obama, China and members of the G-20 (in September) regarding the possible inclusion of HFC's in the Protocol. This would be land breaking and seen as a positive and perhaps even the most important global effort to control substances that have a significant impact on the climate system. Climate change is continuing to emerge as a theme with many former ozone depleting CFC and HCFC substances being substituted with gases that have high global warming potential, namely HFC's, including widely used refrigerant gas 134a used in auto's and many other applications. Its phase-out/phase-down may be inevitable.

MOPIA's November E-Bulletin will highlight the MOP outcomes, some of which may affect you going forward.



## A/C Checks at what Price....



What is the proper market price for servicing air conditioning systems?? Well, that can only be suggested after a few factors are placed into the equation. First off, a general visual inspection without penetrating any refrigerant lines may range typically between \$0-75.

A more comprehensive "leak check" including the use of a leak detector, pressure test with nitrogen means more time, product or equipment and technical expertise. If a leak is detected, a permanent repair must take place before adding any additional HFC refrigerant. This is mandatory. The use of, or topping-up of an A/C system with a hydrocarbon is not permitted unless: the system originally contained a hydrocarbon; the manufacturer specs. permit its use; or in some cases the industry codes allow for alternative or; all remaining refrigerant is recovered first. Otherwise, this creates a cocktail of different refrigerants which may harm the system and/or the environment.

MOPIA, nor government regulates A/C servicing prices, as we have an open or free market. Further, the price charged varies widely depending on the type of system (i.e. auto, residential A/C, etc.), the refrigerant source price and type, the company servicing the unit and other variables including profit margin motivations. Consumers are entitled to a quote and new legislation in Manitoba dictates further conditions to protect consumers when quoting.

The best safeguard for consumers is to seek more than one quote.

## Southern Ozone Depletion Continues – Latest Data

Recent information on the monitoring of the ozone hole in the southern hemisphere has recorded an ozone hole in October 2013 larger than that recorded in 2012. This hole reached parts of South America in mid-September. The good news in the data indicates the ozone hole is smaller than the recorded "average" over the past decade.

See: <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/met/jds/ozone/index.html>



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**5,000 + Certified Technicians  
 across Manitoba  
 Is everyone Complying?**

At printing time, MOPIA has just over 5,050 members who have re-certified for the 2013-2014 period. This is a healthy number but we know that certain persons may not have yet re-certified (renewed). In an effort to encourage these people, MOPIA has sent a final reminder and is contacting persons via email and telephone. Our next step will be to inform Manitoba Conservation enforcement (Environment Officers) where there is suspicion or concern that someone has not renewed but is potentially working with refrigerants or doing air conditioning. Financial fines for these individuals include penalties of up to \$50,000 and may include prison on a first offense!! Please ensure your co-workers or employees are valid and renewed or they too could become less wealthy and famous in a future E-Bulletin and the news.

**Join in: Hydrocarbon Refrigerant  
 Use Session – 16 October/1930 pm**

Learn about hydrocarbon refrigerants through RSES's (Manitoba Chapter) free on-line training with George Kurowski, Red River College instructor.

George is a past MOPIA Chair and representative with ASHRAE and active in many innovative projects including a hybrid battery clean/green technology demonstration with a major bus manufacturer.



The event is 16 October at 7:30 pm CDT (Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA).

You'll be able to ask questions on-line while the presentation unfolds from anywhere you have internet access. Join in from where ever you are by using this link:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/meeting.jnlp?sid=2010018&password=M.B1D445B8DFE8C95156E9059D674162>

**\$600,000 Fine - Safeway Charged**



Safeway was recently penalized for allowing the release of HCFC 22 from various store equipment.

They have committed to correcting the situation by spending \$4.1 USD to reduce refrigerant gas emissions from some 659 stores.

The charge levied implied Safeway failed to properly service and adequately repair equipment containing R-22 and failed to keep proper repair records. The cost to Safeway is a \$600,000 civil penalty.

See: <http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/safeway-inc-clean-air-act-settlement>

This violation shows that owners of an enterprise or business are responsible for proper maintenance, servicing and record keeping of equipment containing controlled refrigerants. MOPIA encourages all service companies, building and business owners to be diligent and responsible to protect the environment or potentially face the consequences of non-compliance. Record keeping is crucial as it details (or not) the servicing history, as shown in Safeway's case.

**Opteon HFO-1234yf in Manitoba**

While General Motors, Chrysler and others have expressed interest in the use of HFO 1234yf in future vehicle air conditioning systems, opposition and concern from European companies and others on environmental and safety considerations has delayed its broad introduction. MOPIA is continuing to monitor this situation. However, we can now confirm HFO 1234yf is on Canadian soil, found in Winnipeg at a leading auto dealership and within some new 2014 vehicle models. Its' introductory retail price is \$142.50/lb – yes per pound. This is significantly higher than that for refrigerant HFC 134a. Requirements for technician training may be necessary and different recovery/recycling equipment is part of the change. The HFO1234yf recycling machine cost \$7,000+ for the one Wpg. business. Be Aware – and Be Prepared!!

See: <http://macsworldwide.wordpress.com/2011/05/27/10-questions-and-answers-about-hfo-1234yf/>

[http://www2.dupont.com/hfo1234yf/en\\_US/index.html?src=gg\\_refrig-HFO\\_hfo-1234yf](http://www2.dupont.com/hfo1234yf/en_US/index.html?src=gg_refrig-HFO_hfo-1234yf)

