



HFC Phasedown Passes the Australian Parliament – 19 June 2017

Refrigerants Australia congratulates the Australian Parliament of the passage of legislation to phase-down HFCs, which are very potent greenhouse gases.

Dr Greg Picker, Executive Director of Refrigerants Australia said, "The passage of amendments to the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act guarantees improved environmental outcomes, while also giving industry long-term certainty."

Refrigerants Australia has long contended that a predictable phase-down in HFCs can assist the industry and deliver a range of benefits including reduced costs to consumers, better performance of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, improved energy efficiency and significant emission reductions.

"Putting in place a phase-down of HFCs is predicted to reduce emissions by the equivalent of 80 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030 and builds on the tremendous results in reducing ozone depletion that has already been achieved."

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry has a thirty-year history of working collaboratively on a bi-partisan basis to deliver improved environmental performance.

"As a result of working together with Governments of all types," Picker said, "we are on track to both close the ozone hole over the next 30 years and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from their peak in the early 1990s by 99% in 2036."

Refrigerants Australia

Refrigerants Australia is the peak organisation representing Australian refrigerant suppliers and users. We represent importers, wholesalers and users of air conditioning and refrigeration equipment and the gases they rely on. We also represent Refrigerant Reclaim Australia, an industry-driven award-winning program that has destroyed used refrigerants equivalent to nearly 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Refrigerants Australia was originally established in 1987 to formulate an industry response to the Montreal Protocol, which set out the need to phase-out ozone depleting substances, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

Building on this base, Refrigerants Australia has continued to develop and implement strategies to limit the emissions of all fluorocarbons refrigerants, and has been an active participant in processes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the early 1990s, greenhouse gas emissions were the equivalent of over 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, today they are a bit less than 10 million tonnes and by 2036 they will be about 1.5 million tonnes – a total reduction of 99%.

The gases and emissions

HFCs are manmade gases that are up to several thousand times more potent than carbon dioxide. Emissions of refrigerants occur primarily from leaky equipment.

Most emissions (85 to 90%) come from energy used to run refrigeration and air conditioning equipment not the refrigerant. This equipment is far more energy efficient today – about 40% more efficient - than it was a decade ago.