

OzonAction Kigali Fact Sheet 16

GWPs of Refrigerant Mixtures: Kigali Context



Background: Many of the commonly used refrigerants are mixtures of several pure fluids. For example, R-410A, a widely used refrigerant in air-conditioning applications is a mixture of HFC-32 and HFC-125. The Kigali Amendment controls the use of HFCs, including those used in refrigerant mixtures. This Fact Sheet provides details about the GWP of refrigerant mixtures.

Calculating the GWP of a refrigerant mixture:

See Kigali Fact Sheet 3 for details about the definition of GWP and for GWP values used in the Montreal Protocol.

The GWP of a blend is the weighted average of the GWPs of the blend components. See Box 1 for an example calculation of a blend GWP.

Box 1: Calculating the GWP of a Blend

A widely-used blend is R-404A. It consists of three HFCs:

52% HFC-143a + 44% HFC-125 + 4% HFC-134a

GWPs: HFC-143a: 4470 HFC-125: 3500 HFC-134a: 1430

Blend GWP = 52% * 4470 + 44% * 3500 + 4% * 1430 = 3922

Types of refrigerant mixture affected by the Kigali Amendment:

There are three different types of refrigerant mixture that will be controlled under the Kigali Amendment:

- 1) Mixtures of HFCs
- 2) Mixtures of HFCs and HCFCs
- 3) Mixtures of HFCs and uncontrolled substances (e.g. HFOs or HCs).

Details about substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol are given in Kigali Fact Sheet 15.

When understanding and reporting the use of refrigerant mixtures, it is important to recognise that the Kigali Amendment only controls the use of HFCs. The "GWP-contribution" of non-HFCs does not count towards the GWP of a refrigerant mixture. Hence a refrigerant blend can be understood to have two different GWPs:

- a) The Actual GWP, which is calculated using the actual GWP of *all* components
- b) The 'Kigali Amendment GWP', which is calculated by treating non-HFCs as if they have a zero GWP.

The actual GWP and the 'Kigali Amendment GWP' for R-404A (see Box 1) is the same, as all the components are HFCs. However, the Kigali Amendment GWP for mixtures containing HCFCs or containing uncontrolled substances is always lower than the actual GWP. Box 2 shows two examples.

| / | Box | Actual and 'Kigali Amendment GWPs' | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|
| Example 1: A mixture o | f HFCs | and HCFCs | | | | |
| R-408A composition: | 46% | HFC-143a + 7% HFC-125 + 47% HCFC-22 | | | | |
| Actual Blend GWP = | | 46% * 4470 + 7% * 3500 + 47% * 1810 | = 3152 | | | |
| 'Kigali Amendment GW | P' = | 46% * 4470 + 7% * 3500 + 47% * 0 | = 2301 | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Example 2: A mixture o | f HFCs | , HFOs and R-744 (CO₂) | | | | |
| R-455A composition: | 21.59 | <mark>% HFC-32 + 75.5% HFO-1234yf +</mark> 3% R-744 | | | | |
| Actual Blend GWP = | | 21.5% * 675 + 75.5% * 4 + 3% * 1 | = 148 | | | |
| 'Kigali Amendment GW | P' = | 21.5% * 675 + 75.5% * 0 + 3% * 0 | = 145 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

It is worth noting that in Example 1, the 'Kigali Amendment GWP' is considerably lower than the actual GWP, as the HCFC-22 in the blend has a relatively high GWP. In Example 2, there is only a small difference between the actual and the 'Kigali Amendment GWPs', because the non-HFC components both have ultra-low GWP and only make a small contribution to the actual GWP.

| GWPs of Refrigerant Blends | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|---|--------|---------------|------------|--|--------|---------------|------------|--|--|--|
| Blend | Actual GWP | KA* GWP | | Blend | Actual GWP | KA* GWP | | Blend | Actual GWP | KA* GWP | | | |
| R-401A | 1 182 | 16 | | R-424A | 2 440 | 2 440 | | R-450A | 605 | 601 | | | |
| R-401B | 1 288 | 14 | | R-425A | 1 505 | 1 505 | | R-451A | 149 | 146 | | | |
| R-402B | 2 416 | 1 330 | | R-426A | 1 508 | 1 508 | | R-451B | 164 | 160 | | | |
| R-403A | 3 124 | 0 | | R-427A | 2 138 | 2 138 | | R-452A | 2 140 | 2 139 | | | |
| R-403B | 4 457 | 0 | | R-428A | 3 607 | 3 607 | | R-452B | 698 | 697 | | | |
| R-404A | 3 922 | 3 922 | | R-429A | 14 | 12 | | R-453A | 1 765 | 1 765 | | | |
| R-407A | 2 107 | 2 107 | | R-430A | 95 | 94 | | R-454A | 239 | 236 | | | |
| R-407C | 1 774 | 1 774 | | R-431A | 38 | 36 | | R-454B | 466 | 465 | | | |
| R-407F | 1 825 | 1 825 | | R-432A | 2 | 0 | | R-454C | 148 | 145 | | | |
| R-408A | 3 152 | 2 301 | | R-433A | 3 | 0 | | R-455A | 148 | 145 | | | |
| R-409A | 1 585 | 0 | | R-433B | 3 | 0 | | R-456A | 687 | 684 | | | |
| R-409B | 1 560 | 0 | | R-433C | 3 | 0 | | R-457A | 139 | 136 | | | |
| R-410A | 2 088 | 2 088 | | R-434A | 3 245 | 3 245 | | R-458A | 1 650 | 1 650 | | | |
| R-411A | 1 597 | 14 | | R-435A | 26 | 25 | | R-459A | 460 | 459 | | | |
| R-412A | 2 286 | 0 | | R-436A | 3 | 0 | | R-459B | 145 | 142 | | | |
| R-413A | 2 053 | 1 258 | | R-436B | 3 | 0 | | R-460A | 2 103 | 2 101 | | | |
| R-415A | 1 507 | 22 | | R-437A | 1 805 | 1 805 | | R-461A | 2 767 | 2 767 | | | |
| R-415B | 546 | 93 | | R-438A | 2 265 | 2 264 | | R-462A | 2 249 | 2 249 | | | |
| R-416A | 1 084 | 844 | | R-439A | 1 983 | 1 983 | | R-502 | 4 657 | 0 | | | |
| R-417A | 2 346 | 2 346 | | R-440A | 144 | 144 | | R-507A | 3 985 | 3 985 | | | |
| R-418A | 1 741 | 3 | | R-441A | 3 | 0 | | R-508A | 13 214 | 5 772 | | | |
| R-419A | 2 967 | 2 967 | | R-442A | 1 888 | 1888 | | R-508B | 13 396 | 6 808 | | | |
| R-420A | 1 536 | 1 258 | | R-444A | 93 | 87 | | R-510A | 1 | 0 | | | |
| R-421A | 2 631 | 2 631 | | R-444B | 296 | 293 | | R-511A | 3 | 0 | | | |
| R-421B | 3 190 | 3 190 | | R-445A | 135 | 129 | | R-512A | 189 | 189 | | | |
| R-422A | 3 143 | 3 143 | | R-446A | 461 | 459 | | R-513A | 631 | 629 | | | |
| R-422B | 2 526 | 2 526 | | R-447A | 583 | 582 | | R-513B | 596 | 593 | | | |
| R-422C | 3 085 | 3 085 | | R-448A | 1 387 | 1386 | | R-514A | 7 | 0 | | | |
| R-422D | 2 729 | 2 729 | 1 | R-449A | 1 397 | 1396 | | R-515A | 393 | 386 | | | |
| R-423A | 2 280 | 2 280 | | R-449B | 1 412 | 1411 | | R-516A | 142 | 139 | | | |

The table below provides GWP data for a wide range of different refrigerant blends.

* the KA GWP is the "Kigali Amendment GWP" which excludes the GWP contributions from components that are not controlled under the Kigali Amendment (including HCFCs, HFOs, non-controlled HFCs, PFCs and non-fluorocarbons such as hydrocarbons).

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