# OZONEWS

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & related issues compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme
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## 1- EPA Settles Action Against Aeroquip Corporation and Aeroquip-Vickers Inc. for Alleged Violations of the Clean Air Act

ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 15, 2000--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today the settlement of an enforcement action against Aeroquip Corporation and Aeroquip-Vickers Inc. (collectively Aeroquip), for alleged violations of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) requirements of the Clean Air Act at its Fitzgerald, GA facility. Aeroquip agreed to settle the case for a $400,000.00 penalty.

John H. Hankinson, Jr., EPA Regional Administrator in Atlanta, said ``Enforcement actions, such as this, reflect the Agency's commitment to the Clean Air Act and ensuring compliance with the requirements. The environmental threat from CFCs is serious and well-documented; therefore, EPA will continue to aggressively enforce the laws regulating their use."

Based on a tip from a former employee of the facility, the complaint filed by the United States alleged that Aeroquip did not use certified technicians to repair equipment containing CFCs, and did not use CFC recovery equipment, as required by the Clean Air Act.

The stratospheric ozone layer protects the earth from ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation. According to a national and international consensus, refrigerants like CFCs and hydrochlorofluorocarbons must be restricted because of the risk of depletion of the ozone layer. When depletion of the ozone occurs, the potential for UV-B radiation exposure increases, resulting in potential health and environmental harm including increased incidence of skin cancers and cataracts, suppression of the immune system, and damage to plants including crops and aquatic organisms. Additional information: EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/ozone <http://www.epa.gov/ozone>

Contact: EPA Media Relation, Dawn Harris, 404-562-8421

### 2- Auxer Introduces New Easy Test Air Conditioning Kits & Chemicals; Harvey Westbury Expects to Meet Projections for Air Conditioning Line

WEST PATERSON, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 13, 2000--The Auxer Group, Inc. announced today that its subsidiary, Harvey Westbury Corp., launched its new and expanded line of Automotive Air Conditioning Chemicals, Retrofit & Recharge Kits for the Summer 2000 season. Harvey Westbury expects to exceed its projections of $750,000.

``After only two seasons since the Harvey Westbury re-entered the Mobile Air Conditioning market, we are very excited about the prospect of exceeding our sales goals of $750,000 as stated in our February 6, 1998 press release for the Easy Test® Air Conditioning line. The new additions include over forty (40) air conditioning kits, chemicals and accessories. These new items are part of the on-going Research & Development program which we expect to support the company's continuing growth of this magnitude," said Ronald Shaver, President of Harvey Westbury.

As a result of the Clean Air Act, HFC-134a refrigerant continues to grow as the mobile air conditioning and OEM alternative refrigerant of choice replacing CFC-12 (also known by the trade name Freon). Based on its initial success in HFC-134a based kits, Harvey Westbury

continues to develop and grow the Easy Test® Air Conditioning line of Kits, Chemicals and Accessories primarily around HFC-134a. This season the Company is introducing a line of Do-It-Yourself Kits, chemicals and accessories geared towards supplying the market and consumers with innovative and inexpensive solutions for Recharging newer cars (post 1994 models) with HFC-134a as well as Retrofitting older cars from CFC-12 to Alternative refrigerants (other than ozone-depleting substances like CFC-12) which have been reviewed under the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) SNAP program (Significant New Alternatives Policy). For more information visit websites at www.auxer.com <http://www.auxer.com>.

Source: Business Wire, http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/000613/nj_auxer_g.html

**3- IVAX Receives Approval for CFC-Free Beclomethasone in Japan**

MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 8, 2000--Following the recent launch of its CFC-free beclomethasone product in France, IVAX Corporation announced today that the product has now been approved in Japan. Beclomethasone, an anti-asthmatic drug, will be available in metered dose aerosol inhalers containing 50mcg and 100mcg of the drug, together with a propellant that does not contain any of the chlorofluorocarbons (``CFC's'') thought to cause thinning of the earth's ozone layer.

The product is expected to be launched later this year by IVAX' partner in Japan, Taisho Pharmaceuticals.

Taisho is an important Japanese pharmaceutical company that will add the new IVAX product to its growing franchise in the respiratory field. It recently announced a licensing transaction under which it will obtain rights to a 5-lipoxygenase inhibitor for asthma from Millennium Pharmaceuticals, and it has also entered into an agreement with EpiGenesis Inc. concerning a novel compound for the treatment of respiratory disease.

The beclomethasone market in Japan is approximately 14 billion yen ($132 million) per year and is dominated by Glaxo Wellcome's and Schering Plough's beclomethasone products, both of which are still available only in formulations containing CFC's. Steroids such as beclomethasone are increasingly used in Japan to prevent asthmatic episodes, and sales of these products have nearly doubled in the last 5 years, and have significant further growth potential.

IVAX has now received approval for its CFC-free beclomethasone in 7 countries, with other approvals expected during the remainder of 2000. Contact: IVAX Corporation, Miami Tabitha Licea, Investor Relations Department 305/575-6043 www.ivax.com <http://www.ivax.com>

Source: Business Wire, http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/000608/fl_ivax.html

**4- Arctic Ozone Depletion Linked to Increase in Clouds. Greenhouse effect may delay recovery of ozone layer**

The greenhouse effect, which warms the Earth near its surface, may be preventing the damaged ozone layer over the Arctic region from recovering as quickly as scientists previously thought. The fragile stratospheric ozone layer shields life on Earth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation.

A NASA press release, reporting on a paper published in the May 26 issue of the journal Science, says more polar stratospheric clouds than anticipated are forming high above the North Pole, causing additional ozone loss in the sky over the Arctic. According to the article, ozone concentrations in some parts of the Arctic's upper atmosphere declined as much as 60 percent from November 1999 through March 2000.

Polar stratospheric clouds provide the surfaces that convert benign forms of chlorine into reactive, ozone-destroying forms, and they remove nitrogen compounds that act to moderate the destructive impact of chlorine. Greenhouse gas emissions, which provide warming at the Earth's surface, may ironically be cooling the stratosphere enough to cause these clouds to form earlier and last longer.

Scientists have determined that human-made chlorine compounds, such as chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, cause most ozone depletion. While CFC emissions are banned by the Montreal Protocol, recent studies show that recovery of the Arctic ozone layer may be delayed by decades.

Source: http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/environ/climate/00053002.htm US Department of State, International Information Programs, 30 May 2000.



Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, *Public Information Assistant*
Reviewer: Jim Curlin, *Information Officer*

If you have questions, comments, ideas for future articles, or you want to discontinue receiving this update, please contact: Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. 0144371452 Email: sami.degobert@unep.fr