

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol provided by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris
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Special Announcement:

We are conducting research to identify all of the existing videos related to Illegal trade/smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), Customs officers training on detecting ODS shipments.

Should you be aware of the existence of any such materials, please contact:

Mrs. Samira de Gobert @ samira.degobert@unep.fr

1- European Commission (EC) Amending Regulation No 2037/2000

In applying Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, a number of issues have emerged that need to be addressed through amendments to this Regulation. These issues relating to the effective and safe implementation of the Regulation have been discussed with the Member States in the Management Committee ... and most recognise that there is a need for these amendments ... This proposal concerns four amendments to Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 The first issue concerns ... timeframes for reducing the use of halons for critical uses. The second issue concerns the export of products and equipment containing halon. The third issue concerns the export of controlled substances or products containing controlled substances. The fourth issue concerns the provisions on new substances bromochloromethane ... The proposed amendments to Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 are fully in line with the environmental objective of the Regulation, safeguarding the ozone layer, while at the same time ensuring that the legal provisions of the regulation are clarified and amended where necessary ...

Full text @: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002_0642en01.pdf

Source: Commission of European Communities, Brussels, 21.11.2002, COM(2002) 642 final

2- Chilling With Sound

The Office of Naval Research has long funded researchers at Penn State who now have proved they can build a compact freezer case substituting sound waves for chemical refrigerants. "The Navy has been looking for years for alternatives to freon-based cooling systems aboard Navy ships to save energy as well as the environment," says ONR's Steve McElvany, science manager for Navy's TRITON (for 3-ton chillers) program. "The Navy would like to find an ecologically friendly way for distributed cooling aboard our carriers. The early research we funded in this area has led to Garrett's freezer concept." Although freon-based refrigerants were banned in 1996 over concerns about the hole in the ozone layer, the use of other chemicals still add to greenhouse gasses. The thermo-acoustic freezer case envisioned by Dr. Steven Garrett and Matt Poese at Penn State - partially funded by Ben & Jerry's as well as the Office of Naval Research - would use high amplitude sound energy to cool itself. In tests, Garrett's team used a "souped-up" loudspeaker to generate high-amplitude sound energy in inert pressurized gasses. While you might not be able to safely listen to Jerry Garcia at decibels higher than 120 (about the loudest racket one could tolerate at a rock concert), Garrett's team reached sound levels hundreds of thousands of times higher (173dB), and reached a temperature differential of -8 degrees below zero - cool enough for that tub of ice cream. And quite enough, too, to take care of distributed cooling systems in the U.S. Navy fleet. For more information on thermoacoustic cooling,

contact Gail Cleere at cleereg@onr.navy.mil

Source: EureKalert, 4 December 2002

3- UV Radiation May Not Be Linked to Frog Declines

Two new reports cast doubt on the importance of ultraviolet-b radiation (UV-B) as a factor driving amphibian population declines. Because UV-B has been shown in field and laboratory experiments to cause deformities and increased mortality in amphibian embryos, some scientists have contended that increases in UV-B from thinning of atmospheric ozone have contributed to declines of frog populations worldwide. However, one of the shortcomings of this earlier research has been a lack of knowledge about the actual exposure of amphibians to UV-B in their natural habitats. New field studies presented in the journal "Ecology" suggests that UV-B may play little or no role in amphibian declines ... The scientists found that frogs breeding in May are exposed to less UV-B than frogs that breed in June. Another study by scientists at Oregon State University had shown that boreal toad eggs developed in shallower water in years with low snow accumulation. Because penetration of UV-B in water diminishes with increased water depth, scientists in that study had suggested that toad embryos received greater UV-B exposure in low water years and that the UV-B exposure could be a factor in the species' decline ... The research is part of an international effort to learn why amphibians are disappearing in the United States and across the globe. Among the suggested causes are weakened immune systems caused by pollution, exposure to UV radiation and other problems, leaving amphibians vulnerable to viral and fungal infections ...

Article @: <http://ens-news.com/ens/dec2002/2002-12-04-09.asp#anchor4>

Source: Environment News Service, 4 December 2002

4. YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

We would like to learn your opinion about OzoNews service so that we can better understand its effectiveness and improve its operation. We would greatly appreciate your help in answering the following questions and sending it back to us by return email, to: samira.degobert@unep.fr

1. What is your reaction when you see OzoNews in your mail box?

- I read it immediately.
- I read it when time permits.
- I select the news of interest and save them for later reference.
- I delete it, please do not send it to me anymore.

2. Does OzoNews help you in your daily work?

- Yes
- No

If YES please describe how you use it:

3. Does OzoNews help you to remain abreast of international developments in ozone protection?

- Yes
- No

4. Is a weekly issue a good frequency?

- Yes
- No

If NO please specify the required frequency :

5. Would you recommend OzoNews to other colleagues?

- Yes
- No

6. Please use the space below for any other comments or suggestions

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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If you have questions, comments, ideas for future articles, or you want to discontinue receiving this update, please contact: Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. (+33) 1 44371452 Email: samira.degobert@unep.fr

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