

Empowering Regional Action: How ECA Network Countries Used Legislative & Policy Options / RAC Sector Action Tables as an Effective Tool to Foster Dialogue and Share Insights to Support Kigali Amendment Implementation

Introduction:

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol requires parties to reduce hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) consumption. To support the countries' efforts, UNEP OzonAction has developed tools to assist countries in implementing effective legislative and policy measures.

A Proven Framework: Lessons from HCFC Phase-out Initiatives:

In 2010, UNEP OzonAction released a publication focusing on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) - '*HCFC Policy and Legislative Options: A Guide for Developing Countries*' (available in English, Russian and other languages). It recommended the adoption of various measures to phasing out the consumption of ozone-depleting substances including HCFCs.

Based on this publication, the Montreal Protocol Network for Europe and Central Asia (ECA network) created an overview table of HCFC legislative and policy options. The objective was to share information between the countries on what legislative and policy measures were already in place or planned to be put in place, to encourage discussions between the countries and the exchange of experiences, and to contribute to the harmonization of measures in the region. It also allowed comparison with measures implemented by European Union countries and helped establish national roadmaps for adopting future legislative and policy measures.



Note: Author was the policy expert Dr. Janusz Kozakiewicz from Poland

Expanding the Scope: Focus on HFCs and the RAC Sector:

In 2017, OzonAction released a similar publication related to HFCs (available in English, Russian and other languages) entitled '*Legislative and Policy Options to Control Hydrofluorocarbons*'.

UNEP OzonAction

To facilitate the HFC phase-down, the ECA network created similar overview tables as it had previously created for HCFCs:

1. *Overview table for HFC legislative and policy options:* This tool maps the status of HFC-related measures across countries, providing a clear overview of existing policies.
2. *Overview table for RAC sector action:* This tool focuses on the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector, the largest consumer of HFCs, and helps countries address sector-specific challenges and provides inspiration of what actions can support the HFC phase-down.

The tables cover the 11 ECA network countries and several countries of economies in transition (CEITs)

	ALB	ARM	AZB	BEL	BIH	GEO	KAZ	KYR	MDN	MNE	MOL	RUS	SER	TAJ	TKM	TUR	UKR	UZB
1 HFC policy options																		
2 Options related to monitoring and controlling trade related to HFCs																		
3 Import quotas for HFC	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA
4 Exemptions from the HFC import quotas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	PLA	NO	PLA	NO	NO	?	PLA	NO	YES	NO	NO
5 Mandatory reporting by HFC importers and exporters	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	YES
6 Labelling of HFC containers	YES	PLA	NO	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	PLA
7 Ban on non-refillable HFC containers	YES	YES	NO	PLA	YES	PLA	NO	PLA	YES	YES	NO	PLA	PLA	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
8 Restrictions on imports/placing on the market of products and equipment containing/relying on HFC	YES	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA	NO	NO	NO	PLA	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	NO	NO
9 Permits for HFC transit	NO	YES	PLA	NO	NO	YES	NO	PLA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	PLA	NO	NO	PLA	YES
10 Permits for each HFC shipment	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES
11 Requirement for proof of origin for HFC shipments	YES	NO	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	PLA	YES
12 Fees for HFC imports / placing on the market	NO	YES	NO	NO	PLA	NO	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	NO	YES	PLA	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
13 Electronically-operated licensing system for HFC	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	NO	YES	YES	PLA	YES	NO	PLA	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES
14 Options related to restrictions on use of HFCs																		
15 Specific phase-down schedules for HFCs	NO	NO	NO	NO	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA
16 Specific use bans on HFCs	NO	NO	NO	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	PLA	NO
17 Ban on new HFC installations	NO	NO	NO	YES	PLA	NO	NO	PLA	PLA	PLA	NO	PLA	NO	NO	NO	PLA	NO	PLA
18 Options related to record keeping of HFCs																		
19 Mandatory HFC logbooks (for substances)	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	NO	YES	NO
20 Mandatory HFC equipment logbooks	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	YES	PLA	YES	NO	PLA	YES	YES	NO
21 Options related to prevention of HFC emissions																		
22 HFC emission control measures	PLA	PLA	PLA	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	YES	YES	PLA	YES	PLA	NO	YES	YES	PLA
23 Options related to capacity building and awareness raising																		

Key Features of the Overview Tables of Legislative & Policy and RAC Sector Action

The overview tables are living documents which can be updated at any time (at least once a year). They cover aspects like:

- Monitoring and controlling trade with HFCs
- HCFC/HFC use restrictions
- Record keeping
- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Emission control measures
- RAC associations and their activities
- Safety standards
- Training and certifications on good practices and containment
- Training and certifications on the safe use of alternatives technologies
- Equipment logbooks and inventories
- Energy efficiency measures
- Ozone and climate-friendly technologies existing in the country
- Bans and restrictions for HCFC/HFC products and equipment
- Financial mechanisms
- Refrigerant recovery, recycling, reclamation and destruction
- Enforcement measures.

The status of measures is categorized as follows:

- In place
- Planned to be put in place
- Not planned.

How Countries can use the Overview Tables:

By offering structured data and actionable insights, the tools inspired ECA countries to identify priorities and gaps, plan effectively, and collaborate regionally. Below are examples of how countries can utilize the tables:

- **Gap analysis:** The tools enable countries to compare their current legislative and policy measures against regional benchmarks. By identifying gaps, governments can prioritize areas that need immediate attention or improvement, such as trade monitoring and HFC use restrictions.
- **Planning roadmaps:** Using the tables' systemic and structured data, countries can outline phasedown timelines and specific action plans. These roadmaps can guide national efforts in meeting Kigali Amendment targets and align phasedown schedules with local economic and technological capacities.
- **Initiating regional discussions and collaboration:** The tools provide a structured framework for fostering regional dialogues and cross-border collaboration. They enable countries to exchange insights, share experiences, and align strategies. This collaborative approach helps harmonize legislation, adopt best practices, and streamline regional implementation, enhancing the effectiveness of HFC management.
- **Educational aspect:** When reviewing the tables, Montreal Protocol Officers can examine possible options, compare them with those implemented by other countries and ask for clarifications on their counterparts and UNEP OzonAction on how to implement such measures and whether there are any lessons learned.

Below are the links to the above-mentioned publication and overview tables (available in English, Russian and other languages) for the countries in the Europe and Central Asia region.

- [Legislative and Policy Options to Control Hydrofluorocarbons](#)
- [RAC sector action ECA CEIT English Russian](#)
- [HFC legislative and policy options ECA CEIT English Russian](#)

Contacts:

Artem Kushnerev, Email: artem.kushnerev@un.org

Halvart Koeppen, Email: halvart.koppen@un.org