

OZONews

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

24 December 2001

Table of Contents:

- 1- The Beijing Amendment To The Montreal Protocol Enters Into Force
 - 2- Firefighters Ward Off Toxic Fumes
 - 3- Light-Plasma Refrigerator
 - 4- SureBeam Increases Its Intellectual Property Portfolio; Three New Patents Awarded
 - 5- La Confédération veut renforcer les mesures de protection du climat
-

1- The Beijing Amendment To The Montreal Protocol Enters Into Force

New controls and trade rules on chemicals that can damage the ozone layer, the Earth's protective shield, are to come into force in the New Year.

Nairobi, 14 December 2001 - It follows the ratification by more than 20 governments of The Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer ... Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said: "The coming into force of the Beijing Amendment sends a strong signal that countries are committed to protecting and restoring the ozone layer which shields life on Earth from harmful levels of ultra violet light". " It shows that nations are fully behind efforts to enforce the Montreal Protocol, the treaty to which the Beijing Amendment is linked. 20 countries is the minimum needed to bring it into force. However, I urge all nations to ratify as a sign of solidarity with the global effort to protect the ozone layer" ... The Beijing Amendment establishes a new ban on trade of imports and exports in HCFCs with countries that have not yet ratified the Protocol's Copenhagen Amendment and extends controls to the production of HCFCs. It also add controls on a new substance, bromochloromethane, which has an ozone-depleting potential of 0.12 and is supposed to be phased out in 2002. The Beijing Amendment has, so far, been ratified by the following countries chronological order- Chile, Gabon, Luxembourg, Jordan, Canada, Czech Republic, Palau, New Zealand, Finland, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Samoa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Burundi, Congo, Malaysia, Netherlands, Germany, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Federated States of Micronesia and Norway ... The Beijing Amendment, the fourth of such Amendments since the original Montreal Protocol was concluded on 16 September 1987, should have entered into force on 1 January 2001 provided that at least twenty instruments of ratification had been deposited by states or regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Montreal Protocol ...

Press Release Full Text @: <http://www.unep.org/Documents/Default.asp?DocumentID=232&ArticleID=2987>

Beijing Amendment Full Text @: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/Handbook2000.shtml>

Source: UNEP Press Releases, (Information Note 01/41), 14 December 2001

2- Firefighters Ward Off Toxic Fumes

Firefighters wearing masks to ward off a possible threat of toxic fumes put out a blaze at an unoccupied three-story apartment building that was being fumigated ... It took firefighters about an hour and 20 minutes to extinguish the flames ... The fire damaged six of the building's 15 units. The building, covered by a tent, was being fumigated for pests with methyl bromide, a toxic chemical commonly used in the pest control and agricultural industries. The chemical is being phased out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of its depleting effect on the earth's ozone layer. It is scheduled to be banned except in rare cases by 2005. Methyl bromide exposure can result in central nervous system and respiratory failure. Concerns about possible toxic fumes and the risk of the fire spreading prompted authorities to evacuate 50 people from an adjacent two-story apartment building and a nearby house. But firefighters later determined that there was no chemical problem. "No products of fumigation were present," Humphrey said...

Full Text @: http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/2000/20011211/lo/1006190_1.html

Source: Yahoo Daily News, 19 December 2001

3- Light-Plasma Refrigerator

Toshiba will market an ozone-friendly refrigerator early next year. Instead of using alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons, which are widely used as refrigerants and well known for their destructive effect on the ozone layer, this refrigerator uses isobutene whose harmfulness is 400 times smaller than chlorofluorocarbons. In addition, the eco-friendly refrigerator uses less lead and vinyl chloride as parts than traditional ones.

Light-plasma refrigerator, GR-NF-47K, Toshiba <http://www.toshiba.co.jp>

Source: Japan Today, 20 December 2001 @: <http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=product&id=390>

4- SureBeam Increases Its Intellectual Property Portfolio; Three New Patents Awarded

SAN DIEGO - SureBeam Corporation innovator of the electron beam technology that safely destroys dangerous bacteria in food -- announced that it has been awarded three new U.S. patents that enhance product handling and processing, advance shielding design, and simplify construction for various SureBeam® systems... SureBeam's technology significantly improves food safety, prolongs shelf life, and provides disinfection that helps to protect the environment... patented electronic pasteurization system is based on proven electron beam and x-ray technology that destroys harmful food-borne bacteria. This technology can also eliminate the need for toxic chemical fumigants used in pest control that may be harmful to the earth's ozone layer...

Full Text @: http://www.surebeam.com/press_releases_read.html?id=78

Source: Surebeam Corporation Press Releases, 20 December 2001

5- La Confédération veut renforcer les mesures de protection du climat

BERNE - Le Département fédéral de l'environnement veut encore mieux protéger le climat. Il s'agit d'étendre l'interdiction des CFC, de soumettre à autorisation l'import-export de produits nocifs à la couche d'ozone et de limiter les substances à effet de serre... L'interdiction sera progressivement étendue d'ici 2015 aux HCFC utilisés dans la réfrigération et la climatisation. Parallèlement, afin de contrôler le respect de ces mesures, le DETEC souhaite introduire un système d'autorisation pour les importations et exportations de produits appauvrissant la couche d'ozone. Quant aux équipements de réfrigération et climatisation qui fonctionnent à l'aide de substances interdites en Suisse, ils ne pourront plus être exportés. Il s'agit notamment de ne pas perpétuer la dépendance des pays en développement envers les CFC...

Full Text @: <http://www.edicom.ch/news/suisse/011220104538.th.shtml>

Source: Edicom, Switzerland, 20 December 2001

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service to help keep readers informed about current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The goal of OzoNews is to provide information, stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

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

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