

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:  
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**Happy New Year!**

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## **1- China Bans Cars with Freon Air Conditioners**

SHANGHAI - China has banned the production and import of passenger cars with air conditioners using Freon in a move to join international efforts to protect the ozone layer, the official Shanghai Television said on Thursday. Government departments including the State Bureau of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) recently issued a bulletin to announce the ban, it said. From January 1, 2002, all passenger cars made in China have stopped installing air-conditioners using Freon, Shanghai Television said. Freon is the trademarked name for any of the family of chemicals containing fluorine. MOFTEC also stopped issuing licenses for imported cars with air conditioners and compressors using Freon. Importers of passenger cars have to offer documents proving they did not use it in air conditioners, Shanghai Television said. Chinese officials were not immediately available for comment.

**Full text @:** <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/13910/story.htm>

**Source:** Planet Ark Environmental News, Reuters News Service, 07 January 2002

## **2- Workshop on Montreal Protocol Held**

HYDERABAD: The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) conducted a one-day workshop on the Montreal Protocol, the international treaty aimed at reducing ozone depleting substances (ODS) in the atmosphere, here on Thursday. The workshop highlighted the importance of the ozone layer and publicised the steps that industries using ODS need to implement to maintain ecological balance. Speaking on the occasion, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) member-secretary Tishya Chatterjee said only 14 industries had been provided assistance under the multilateral fund for conversion from ODS to non-ODS substances in the state. He also said it must be ensured that there was no toxic spin-off as a result of replacing ODS. There should not be a replacement of air polluting substances with water polluting substances. MoEF ozone cell director Usha Chandra Sekhar said of the 20 ODS, India produces seven items, namely, chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, Halon-1211, Halon-1301, carbon tetrachloride (CTC) and Methyl Chloroform. Usha said the main objective of the Montreal Protocol country programme for India that came into existence in November 1993 is to minimise economic dislocation resulting from conversion to non-ODS technology, maximising indigenous production, and minimising obsolescence. She also said regulation of Halon, CFC and CTC will be completed by 2010 and methyl chloroform by 2015. India has also banned import and export of goods containing ODS with countries that are not parties to the Montreal Protocol, which India signed in 1992. Chandra Sekhar also said the Ozone Cell will give more publicity to ozone regulations, estimate an inventory of ODS-using industries, and early registration of enterprises for multilateral assistance.

**Full text @:** <http://globalarchive.ft.com/globalarchive/article.html?id=020105000348&query=%22ozone+layer%22>

**Source:** The Times of India; 05 January 2002

## **3- Magnetic Refrigerator Gets Down and Homey**

Household fridges and magnets have long had a surface relationship. Now, they may be warming up-actually, cooling off-to a more intimate involvement. Researchers have unveiled a new cooling system that chills by means of magnets, operates at room temperature, and can fit inside home appliances. Magnetic refrigerators and air conditioners promise to be more efficient than conventional ones, says Karl A. Gschneidner Jr. of the Department of Energy's Ames (Iowa) Laboratory. Also, magnetic appliances would circulate water or relatively benign antifreeze fluids instead of ozone-depleting refrigerants, he adds... Like its superconducting predecessor, the new unit takes advantage of the so-called magnetocaloric effect. Conventional refrigerators compress a volatile gas and then permit it to rapidly expand, pulling heat from the surroundings. In contrast, the magnetic device exploits magnetically induced heating and cooling of a powder of the element gadolinium. The powder is stuffed in pockets inside the ring that carries it through the field of the permanent magnet ...

**Full text @:** <http://www.sciencenews.org/20020105/fob2.asp>

**Source:** Science News Online, By: Peter Weiss, 05 January 2002

#### 4- CFC Gas Smuggling in Poor Nations Poses Threat to Ozone Layer

NEW DELHI, India (AP) -- Tons of gases that eat away at the Earth's ozone layer are smuggled into India and other developing nations each year in an illegal trade that threatens a landmark treaty to phase out the harmful chemicals by the end of the decade, environmentalists say... Industrialized nations already stopped using them in 1996, but companies there are still allowed to produce a limited quantity for medicinal use and for supplying the basic needs of developing nations. But the Environmental Investigation Agency, a nonprofit organization based in London and Washington, says a multimillion-dollar parallel market is growing fast in poorer, tropical countries where old equipment has yet to be switched over to cleaner chemicals. The illicit gases are also attractive because they're cheaper than less destructive gases... Refrigerator manufacturers in developing nations from Brazil to Egypt are replacing CFCs with less harmful chemicals. But illicit trafficking in ozone-depleting substances is estimated to total 20,000 tons yearly, the Environmental Investigation Agency says... U.S. and European companies want to preserve their control over the market, said S.C. Wadhwa, vice president of Gujarat Fluorochemicals, one of India's four main CFC manufacturers. The Indian Institute for Chemical Technology in Hyderabad has been trying to develop a process for making cleaner gas since the mid-1990s but still isn't ready even for pilot tests, Wadhwa said. Campbell said Atofina was willing to talk about technology transfer. "It's a question of making the judgment when a market is ready for domestic production," he said.

**Full text @:** [http://www.nj.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?newsflash/get\\_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory\\_ssf.cgi?f0003\\_BC\\_ContrabandChemicals&&news&newsflash-financial](http://www.nj.com/newsflash/business/index.ssf?newsflash/get_story.ssf?cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?f0003_BC_ContrabandChemicals&&news&newsflash-financial)

**Source:** New Jersey Online, By: Tony SMITH, The Associated Press, 06 January 2002

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**OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

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

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