

To: All Interested Parties

Date: January 29, 2021

Subject: Webinar - Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Working Group Meeting to Discuss 15-Day Changes to California's HFC Regulation

In December 2020, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the [Proposed Amendments to CARB's HFC regulation](#) with direction to consider limited revisions (see full description on page 2). In particular, the Board directed staff to establish a refrigerant recovery, recycling, and reuse (R4) program with requirements for use of recycled (i.e. reclaimed) material by manufacturers of air conditioning (AC) equipment. Some additional clarifying changes are also being considered. At this webinar, staff will discuss the proposed changes to the draft regulatory text and seek additional stakeholder input.

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

LOCATION: This is a webinar with remote participation only.

Important Note: The webinar will be used to encourage feedback and recommendations from stakeholders. This does not begin the formal 15-day notice timeline. The formal proposed 15-day changes to the regulation will be made public after the webinar, following which the official comment period will begin. All formal documents for this rulemaking are available [here](#).

How to Participate

Stakeholders can register for the webinar [here](#). Please register before Friday, February 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar. The webinar will feature a chat dialog box for public to submit questions and comments related to the presentation.

Prior to the webinar, staff may post supporting materials on our [website](#).

Background

Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), such as HFCs, are among the most harmful pollutants as they are powerful climate forcers. While they remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter time than carbon dioxide (CO₂), their global warming potential (GWP) can be hundreds or even thousands of times greater than CO₂. Recognizing the importance of reducing HFCs, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1383 in 2016, which requires a 40 percent reduction of HFC emissions below 2013 levels by 2030. In March 2018, CARB adopted partially vacated federal HFC prohibition regulations, and proposed additional HFC prohibitions and changes to the regulation, which were presented and approved by the Board at the December 2020 Board Meeting.

At the December 2020 Board Meeting, the Board approved the following amendments:

- GWP limit of 150 on new stationary refrigeration systems containing more than 50 pounds of refrigerant in new facilities starting January 1, 2022;
- Company-wide emissions reduction targets for companies owning or operating retail food facilities to be met by 2030, with an interim reduction target in 2026 for some companies; and
- GWP limit of 750 beginning January 1, 2023 for new smaller AC and heat pump equipment including: Dehumidifiers, room/wall/window AC equipment, packaged terminal ACs (PTACs), packaged terminal heat pumps (PTHPs), and portable AC equipment.

Based on Board direction, staff is proposing to make the following 15-day changes to the regulation:

- For new AC systems (not already included in the smaller AC and heat pump list above), delay the 750 GWP limit requirements from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025;
- For new variable refrigerant flow (VRF) and variable refrigerant volume (VRV) systems, delay the 750 GWP limit requirements from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2026; and
- Establish reclaimed refrigerant use requirements for original equipment manufacturers of new air-conditioning and VRF/VRV units using a refrigerant with a GWP of 750 or greater in California.



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jared Blumenfeld, CalEPA Secretary
Liane M. Randolph, Chair

Contact

We welcome and encourage your participation at this working group meeting (webinar). If you have questions regarding this webinar, please email the [HFC Reduction Team](#). Stakeholders can stay current on regulatory developments, future meetings, and timelines by subscribing for email updates [here](#) and identifying “HFC reduction measures” among their topics of interest.

Special Accommodations Request

If you require a special accommodation or need this document in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print) or another language, please contact the [CARB HFC Reduction Team](#) as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled event.