



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

January 18, 2008

To All Interested Parties:

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff invites you to participate in the first public workshop to discuss concepts for reducing the global warming impact of refrigerants used for mobile air conditioning. This meeting will cover principally Do-It-Yourself (DIY) motor vehicle air conditioning (MVAC) servicing. On June 21, 2007, the Board approved the emission reduction strategy for DIY MVAC servicing as a discrete early action measure. This designation means that a proposed DIY MVAC regulation is scheduled to be adopted by the Board and become enforceable by January 1, 2010. Stakeholders have expressed repeatedly a desire for maximizing efficiencies in the public process for the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32, AB 32), given the number of measures that call for public meetings. Thus, this first workshop will also include discussions on other measures in the early actions plan related to MVAC systems.

The reductions in HFC-134a emissions from the mobile A/C measures will help meet the State's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 as required by AB 32. The purpose of this initial workshop is to provide an overview of ARB activities to date and to discuss regulatory concepts to achieve the maximum reduction in HFC emissions that is technically feasible and cost-effective. The workshop will be held at the following time and location:

Date:	Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Time:	1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location:	Byron Sher Auditorium
Address:	Cal/EPA Headquarters Building 1001 I Street Sacramento, California 95814

If you wish to participate by phone, please contact Mr. Winston Potts at (916) 323-2537 or via email at [wpotts@arb.ca.gov](mailto:wpotts@arb.ca.gov) to ensure that adequate phone lines are available.

An agenda and staff presentation will be posted prior to the workshop at the ARB website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ccea/hfc-mac/hfc-mac.htm>, and will be available in hard copy at the meeting. Additional information can also be found at this site.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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To receive electronic notifications of upcoming workshops or other events at the ARB, please sign up on the list serve for the DIY MVAC measure by visiting the website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/hfcdiy.htm>.

Directions to Cal/EPA Headquarters and public transit information can be found at the California Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/epabldg/location.htm>. If you have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Rebecca Boyer as soon as possible via phone at (916) 322-4560 or [rboyer@arb.ca.gov](mailto:rboyer@arb.ca.gov). TTY/TDD/Speech-to Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

For those unable to attend the workshop(s) in person, a live video/audio webcast will be available beginning at 1:00 p.m. on February 5, 2008 at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>. During the workshops, the webcast audience may submit questions and comments using the following email address: [auditorium@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:auditorium@calepa.ca.gov). ARB staff will respond to questions and comments during the public workshop.

We welcome and encourage your participation in this important effort. If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact Mr. Winston Potts, Climate Change Mitigation and Emissions Research Section, at (916) 323-2537 or via email at [wpotts@arb.ca.gov](mailto:wpotts@arb.ca.gov) or Dr. Tao Huai, Manager, Climate Change Mitigation and Emissions Research Section, at (916) 324-2981 or via email at [thuai@arb.ca.gov](mailto:thuai@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Alberto Ayala, Ph.D.  
Chief, Climate Change Mitigation and Emissions Branch  
Research Division

cc: Tao Huai, Ph.D.  
Manager  
Climate Change Mitigation and Emissions Research Section

## Attachment

### **Background Information on Mobile Air Conditioning Early Action Measures**

#### Enforcement of Federal Ban on HFC Release during Servicing/Dismantling of MVACs:

The principal strategy would entail better compliance by all who handle refrigerant at the end of vehicle life and be pursued via a cooperative program created among ARB's Enforcement Division, appropriate offices in the U.S. EPA, and the environmental protection offices of the counties where dismantling activity is taking place. The anticipated approach would emphasize enhanced enforcement via audits of activities and documentation.

The Addition of an Air Conditioner Leak Tightness Test and Repair Requirements to Smog Check: Through a cooperative effort with the Bureau of Automotive Repair, this strategy will explore the addition of a refrigerant leak check to the "pass" criteria for the California Smog Check Program for all vehicles that undergo the test. As a result, all vehicles that pass Smog Check would have MVAC systems that are either free of abnormal leaks or inoperable and excluded from further use of the AC system unless the leak(s) is repaired. Vehicles that are determined to have unacceptable leak rates would be required to be repaired as a condition for registration. A similar requirement is already in place and enforced by some local air quality management districts.

Requirement of Low-GWP Refrigerants for New MVACs: This strategy explores the phase out of HFC-134a in all MVAC systems in new vehicles certified for sale in California (heavy- and light-duty, on- and off-road) with the intent to reduce direct and indirect emission impacts and promote only the use of alternative refrigerants with superior lifecycle climate performance. The U.S. EPA's I-MAC Program has generated significant debate and progress regarding alternative refrigerants and the options for the U.S. car MVAC system market with the best lifecycle climate performance. Extensive cooperation between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry is needed to accomplish this strategy and fully realize its benefits.

Refrigerant Tracking, Reporting, and Recovery Program for Decommissioned Refrigerated Shipping Containers: This strategy consists of an assessment of the magnitude of the emissions from refrigerated shipping containers. Depending on results, the strategy may be similar in scope to the measure aimed at enforcing the federal restrictions on refrigerant venting during servicing or dismantling of MVAC systems. After the recovery from a decommissioned container, it may be desirable to disable the refrigeration unit, which may require a regulation. This measure would

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require the collaboration of staff from ARB's Enforcement Division, federal agencies, and local air management districts.