



New Chapter COMAR 26.11.33 Prohibitions on Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons in Aerosol Propellants, Chillers, Foam, and Stationary Refrigeration End-Uses

The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss MDE's draft proposal for new Regulations .01 to .05 under new chapter COMAR 26.11.33 Prohibitions on Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons in Aerosol Propellants, Chillers, Foam, and Stationary Refrigeration End-Uses.

This action seeks to reduce hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions by adopting specific United States Significant New Alternatives Policy Programs (SNAP) prohibitions for certain substances in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, aerosol propellants, and foam end-uses.

Schedule

Draft Proposal Discussion

September 23, 2019 from 1pm – 3pm

Location: Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd, First Floor Conference Rooms, Baltimore, MD 21230

RSVP: For planning purposes, please rsvp for this meeting to Mr. Joshua Shodeinde at joshua.shodeinde@maryland.gov or call 410-537-3866.

This meeting will also be presented by webinar. Webinar ID: 310-517-459

Please register for HFC Draft Regulation on Sep 23, 2019 1:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4825120318276520449>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Regulations/HB1124/Pages/Air.aspx>

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program implements section 612 of the amended Clean Air Act of 1990, which

requires EPA to evaluate substitutes for ozone-depleting substances to reduce overall risk to human health and the environment. Through these evaluations, SNAP generates lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes for each of the major industrial use sectors. EPA has modified the SNAP lists many times, most often by expanding the list of acceptable substitutes, but in some cases by prohibiting the use of substitutes previously listed as acceptable.

On July 20, 2015, EPA promulgated a final rule (2015 SNAP rule) which listed a variety of HFCs and HFC blends as (1) unacceptable; (2) acceptable, subject to use conditions; or (3) acceptable, subject to narrowed use limits.

Shortly after EPA adopted the 2015 SNAP rule, certain manufacturers of HFCs challenged EPA's decision to remove HFCs from the list of substitutes for ozone-depleting substances and to place them on the list of prohibited ozone-depleting substances under the Act. The court vacated parts of EPA's 2015 SNAP rule and upheld other parts of the rule. EPA's 2016 SNAP rule was also challenged and the court issued a similar decision on that rule as well. Due to this litigation, there remains uncertainty on enforcement and compliance of both the 2015 and 2016 SNAP rules.

Maryland, as part of the US Climate Alliance, is proposing action to reduce certain HFCs and HFC blends that have a high-global warming potential and pose a higher overall risk to human health and the environment. The draft regulation proposes to adopt specific SNAP prohibitions for HFCs in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, aerosol propellants, and foam end-uses. The phase out of HFCs will encourage the use of widely available alternatives with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Related Links

Notices of Stakeholder Meetings

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Regulations/air/Pages/ARMARegulationsStakeholders.aspx>

Notices of Public Hearing

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Regulations/air/Pages/reqcomments.aspx>