

Ozone Depleting Substances (as defined by the Montreal Protocol)

Introduction

Producers and suppliers of corrugated cases and materials are often asked whether their products contain or are produced using Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) as defined by the Montreal Protocol.

This bulletin gives a brief synopsis of the issue, refers to the main source of information and suggests how corrugated producers and suppliers could provide a satisfactory response.

Note is also made of the further restriction and prohibition of the use of ODS in ancillary equipment particularly the ban on halons in fire protection systems that is now in effect.

Depletion of the Ozone Layer

It has been established beyond any reasonable doubt that emissions of certain man-made chemicals containing chlorine and bromine cause a reduction of ozone in the earth's stratosphere. This reduction has led to increased levels of ultraviolet radiation being observed at the earth's surface. The chemicals include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride and 1,1,1 trichloroethane which have a variety of uses including those as refrigerants, solvents, foam blowing agents and fire suppressants.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer which limited the production and use of ODS was first signed in 1987 and has now been ratified by 170 countries. In the European Union, the Protocol has been implemented through EC Regulations, the first in 1987, which are directly applicable in the laws of member states. The latest Regulation (No 2037/2000) was applicable from 1st October 2000.

Source of Information

The principle and recommended source of information is through the Department of Trade and Industry's website and can be found at:

www.dti.gov.uk/access/ozone.htm

This gives direct access to the text of the EC Regulation (No 2037/2000) and also to a series of booklets accessible online as PDF files.

The document accessed through the heading "Overview of EC regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer" which is titled "Guidance on the New EC Regulation No 2037/2000" provides a synopsis of all the information required with further references where appropriate. This should furnish corrugated manufacturers with all the information on which to base responses to questions.

Continuing Use of Ozone Depleting Substances

The series of legislative measures introduced since 1988 have progressively limited the use of ODS to the extent that their use is banned in all materials likely to be involved directly in the manufacture of corrugated board and cases. This includes their use (with a few specialised exemptions) as solvents and in aerosols. Manufacturers of corrugated products should still as a matter of good practice monitor all information provided by suppliers in health and safety and environmental information sheets and satisfy themselves of the absence of ODS before signing warranties to customers.

A complete ban on the use of HCFC in foams became effective on 1st January 2004. A series of controls are also in place on the use of ODS as refrigerants with the use of HCFC's already banned in new equipment (with minor exemptions).

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Fire Protection Systems Specific Action may be Needed!

Of specific interest to CPI Corrugated Sector members should be the regulations covering fire protection systems. Virgin and recovered halons for refilling existing fire protection systems and fire extinguishers were banned after 31st December 2002. All systems and extinguishers with halons should have been decommissioned by 31st December 2003.