

DuPont™ FM-200®

MARKETING UPDATE

July 25, 2008

DuPont™ FM-200® not linked to Montreal Protocol phase-outs

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is an international agreement that controls the production and consumption of substances linked to the depletion of stratospheric ozone. In certain cases, the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODSs), such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), has been reduced more rapidly than that required by the Montreal Protocol. The development of effective alternatives to CFCs and HCFCs, such as zero ozone-depleting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), has provided industry with the opportunity to safely accelerate the phaseout of ozone-depleting substances without disrupting the primary societal benefits derived from these products.

The Montreal Protocol made a notable impact on the fire protection industry. The production of Halons was completely phased out on January 1, 1994, and a number of the HCFC alternatives used to replace Halons on a transitional basis are now in the process of being phased out. The basic schedule for the phaseout of HCFCs in developed countries is as follows: 35% reduction by 2004, 65% reduction by 2010, 90% reduction by 2015, 99.5% reduction by 2020, and 100% phaseout by 2030.

In addition to the Montreal Protocol, other regulating bodies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the European Union have imposed still more strict regulations and phaseout schedules on ozone-depleting HCFCs. Title VI of the U.S. Clean Air Act indicates that the production of certain HCFCs will be completely phased out by the year 2020. In 1996, the European Union legislated the complete phaseout of HCFCs in a number of applications including fire protection.

It is extremely important to recognize that these production phase-outs only apply to defined end use applications. Certain CFCs and HCFCs remain strategically important chemical feedstocks, and when used and entirely consumed (except for trace quantities) in the production of other chemicals, are exempt from any production controls or use restrictions. For example, HCFC-22 is an important raw material used in the production of DuPont™ FM-200® fire extinguishing agent, as well as many other important chemical compounds including DuPont™ Teflon® and other fluoropolymers.

The ultimate production phase-out of HCFC-22 for uses such as refrigeration will in no way affect the availability of HCFC-22 for chemical feedstock uses. In fact, the vast majority of chemical companies who utilize HCFC-22 as a chemical feedstock have HCFC-22 production facilities solely dedicated to captive production, and do not sell the material for applications affected by production phase-outs.



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There has been no action on the part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the European Union or any other global authority to limit or control the use of the FM-200® fire extinguishing agent, and there is no phase-out schedule for the manufacture of FM200®. It is unlikely, based on today's best available knowledge, there ever will be such a phase-out schedule. The use and acceptance of the FM-200® fire extinguishant continues to grow worldwide: a strong testament to its superior fire extinguishing ability, safety and environmental acceptability.

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