Final Rule 22 - Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision to References for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector To Incorporate Latest Edition of Certain Industry, Consensus-based Standards

Action Modifying Use Conditions for Flammable Refrigerants

Section 612 of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to evaluate alternatives to ozone-depleting substances. EPA’s Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program reviews substitutes on an end-use basis in a comparative risk framework, using the same risk criteria for all SNAP decisions. Section 612 requires EPA to list as acceptable those substitutes that do not present a significantly greater risk to human health and the environment as compared with other substitutes that are currently or potentially available.

EPA previously found three flammable refrigerants—isobutane (R-600a), propane (R-290), and R-441A—acceptable, subject to use conditions, in new household refrigerators, freezers, and combination refrigerators and freezers under the SNAP program (76 FR 78832, December 20, 2011; 80 FR 19454, April 10, 2015). This final action modifies the use conditions required for use of isobutane, propane, and R-441A in new household refrigerators, freezers, and combination refrigerators and freezers. The use conditions, which address safe use of flammable refrigerants, are being revised to reflect the updated UL Standard 60335-2-24.

Acceptable Alternatives, with Modified Use Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End-Use</th>
<th>Substitutes</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Use Conditions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration &amp; Air Conditioning</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Refrigerants may be used only in new equipment in a refrigerator or freezer, or combination refrigerator and freezer, that meets all the requirements listed in the 2nd edition of the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard for Safety: Household and Similar Electrical Appliance - Safety - Part 2-24: Particular Requirements for Refrigerating Appliances, Ice-Cream Appliances and Ice-Makers, UL 60335-2-24, dated April 28, 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Refrigerators, Freezers, and Combination Refrigerators and Freezers (New)</td>
<td>Isobutane (R-600a), Propane (R-290), R-441A</td>
<td>Acceptable Subject to Use Conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Rule

What is included in this Rule?
- Modifies use conditions for three hydrocarbon refrigerants

Which industrial end-use is included?
- Household Refrigerators and Freezers

Who is affected?
- Equipment manufacturers
- Service technicians

When?
- Effective on September 7, 2018