

CLASSIFICATION



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Ms Megumi Seki
Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
PO Box 30552
Nairobi 00100
Kenya

Dear Ms Seki

As per Decision XXXVI/11 taken at the 36th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, I am writing to provide information on restrictions on the import of equipment containing or relying on controlled substances. In Australia, the import of such equipment is controlled by the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* and its associated regulations. The restrictions are summarised below. Further detail is available on our website and at **Attachment A**.

Equipment that contains or relies on ozone depleting substances

Import of equipment that contains or relies on a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) or hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerant is banned, except in certain limited circumstances. More information can be found at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/ozone/licences-and-reporting/hcfc-ban.

Equipment that contains or relies on hydrofluorocarbons (HFC)

A person requires a licence to import equipment that contains HFC, with limited exemptions. In most cases a licence is not required to import equipment that relies on, but does not contain, HFC. However, the import of certain small air conditioning equipment that contains or relies on a HFC with a global warming potential (GWP) over 750 is banned, except in limited circumstances. More information can be found at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/ozone/licences-and-reporting/equipment-licences-eqpl.

Restrictions relating to energy efficiency

Some refrigeration and air conditioning equipment are also regulated under the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012*, which sets energy efficiency requirements for equipment supplied in Australia. More information can be found at www.energyrating.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PT' followed by a flourish.

Dr Paul Taylor
Director, Ozone & Climate Protection Section

26 February 2025

DCCEEW.gov.au

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Attachment AImport of equipment that contains or relies on a CFC or HCFC refrigerant

An equipment import licence may be granted that allows import for:

- Equipment insulated with foam manufactured with HCFC
- Equipment that is incidental to the main import and it is impractical to remove or retrofit the equipment (for example, air conditioning equipment incorporated into a large boat or drilling rig)
- Equipment for medical, veterinary, defence, industrial safety or public safety purposes, where no practical and effective alternative exists
- Equipment that is for use in conjunction with the calibration of scientific, measuring or safety equipment
- Equipment for test, monitoring or laboratory and analytical use where there is no practical and effective alternative to that equipment.

Import of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment insulated with foam manufactured with CFC is not permitted.

Import of equipment that contains HFC, other than small air conditioning equipment

A licence is required to import equipment containing an HFC refrigerant, unless an exemption applies. Exemptions available include those for low volume importers and imports of personal equipment. More information is at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/ozone/licences-and-reporting/exemptions.

Restrictions on small air conditioning equipment that uses HFC with a GWP over 750

The ban on the import of certain small air conditioning equipment that uses a HFC refrigerant with a GWP over 750 applies to equipment:

- With up to a 2.6 kg refrigerant charge (per the compliance/rating plate)
- Primarily designed for use in cooling, heating, or both heating and cooling a stationary space for human comfort.

The ban applies even if the equipment is imported without refrigerant.

From 1 July 2024, the ban covers portable air conditioners, window/wall units and outdoor units for non-ducted split systems. From 1 July 2025, the ban will also cover outdoor units for multi-head split system air conditioning equipment, including units for variable refrigerant flow systems.

The ban does not apply to similar air conditioning equipment for mobile applications such as caravans and boats, or for use in electrical enclosures and computer rooms.

Licences may be granted for the import of banned equipment in limited circumstances if certain criteria apply, as set out by Regulation 3DA of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995.