Iceland - Report regarding Art. 9 of the Montreal Protocol 2009-2010.

Article 9:

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Iceland controls national use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) through the implementation of Act. No 52/1988 and regulation no. 586/2002 on substances that contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer. This regulation is in line with the EC Regulation No. 2037/2000 on Ozone Depleting substances (ODS), and Iceland is in the process of implementing EU Regulation No. 1005/2009. The provisions of the national and EC ODS regulations are generally stricter than the corresponding ones in the Montreal protocol. Furthermore, both regulations impose restrictions not only on pure ODS substances and mixtures, but on products and equipment containing those, as well.

The responsibility for ensuring full implementation of the obligations under the Montreal Protocol, as well as those under the EU regulation lies with the Environment Agency of Iceland (EAI).

According to the national regulation no. 586/2002 all import of virgin ODSs is illegal as from January 1, 2010. All year 2009 EAI informed importers and stakeholders, as well as the public, on forthcoming ban on import and use of ODSs for refrigeration purposes. This was done by letters to all known importers, main users and through interviews in radio programms, articles in newspapers, presentations at schools for engingers and the University of Iceland.

Nordic co-operation

During the last two decades Iceland has been co-operating actively with Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway on issues related to ozone layer depletion, through participation in the so-called Nordic Ozone Group (NOG) under the Nordic Council of Ministers. In 2010, The Faroe Islands also joined the group. NOG's major tasks are: planning and supervision of projects and studies on ozone depleting substances, aimed at contributing to the strengthening of the Montreal Protocol and EU regulations on ODS as well as increasing public awareness (e.g. through information on availability and promotion of ODS alternatives); exchange of information and experiences from each others' national circumstances with the view to increase efficiency in the implementation of regulations nationally; and discussion and planning of coordinated actions at the international level (EU, Montreal Protocol and other Conventions).

A substantial part of NOG's work is to share experiences between the Nordic countries and better the cooperation in order to fulfil the commitments in the Montreal protocol and the EU regulation on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In recent years the group has been focusing its project work on issues that are of major importance under the Montreal Protocol, for example, acceleration of global HCFC phase out and illegal trade and destruction of ODS banks. During the period 2009-2010, in particular, the Nordic Ozone Group focused on waste containing ODS, and a report of the findings and recommendations for further work is expected to be published ultimo 2011.

In 2010, the group, in cooperation with the "Sea and air", undir the Nordic Chemical Group from the environmental programme of Nordic Council of Ministers, published an information flyer about leakages from refrigerant equipment on fishing vessels.

Monitoring of the atmospheric ozone layer

The atmospheric ozone layer over Iceland is monitored by the Icelandic Met Office since 1957. IMO uses a tradiational method by an unit called Dobson 50, where total ozone is measured from the roof of the Met Office headquarters and up through the athmosphere. The results of these observations are combined with measures from the Environment Canada, and analysed and the spatial distribution visualized on maps of Northern Hemisphere that Environment Candada publish at the website: http://exp-studies.tor.ec.gc.ca/e/ozone/Curr_allmap.htm

National measurements published annually:

Total Ozone in Reykjavík, Capital of Iceland, February through October, 1991-2009

	Mean February-October	Febr	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct
1991	346	353	384	400	379	361	332	329	296	279
1992	341	353	374	393	369	345	332	332	307	260
1993	317	280	371	357	354	329	317	303	280	262
1994	350	368	384	425	369	366	345	314	311	266
1995	334	361	397	369	353	322	329	295	290	287
1996	324	272	340	362	365	350	337	323	280	282
1997	335	342	375	369	367	353	331	318	306	252
1998	354	376	383	402	389	366	349	331	305	288
1999	371	362	457	385	382	354	337	342	370	347
2000	334	334	381	373	360	353	319	308	287	292
2001	347	355	416	392	364	350	342	330	285	286
2002	349	382	416	416	359	346	343	317	284	280
2003	346	364	395	392	395	358	337	307	298	264
2004	337	338	389	374	378	347	335	303	297	273
2005	325	251	320	394	375	353	326	322	302	286
2006	344	356	395	..	377	370	350	303	310	290
2007	348	366	402	380	387	..	..	310	311	285
2008	339	318	402	377	357	355	325	323	304	288
2009	359	410	420	387	380	345	346	330	310	298

Source: www.hagstofa.is Measurements are in Dobson units.

Iceland does not forecast UV radiation on daily basis but air quality is monitored and published on the website: www.ust.is

Further information to the public and stakeholders

Almost every Ozone Day, the Environment Agency of Iceland publish an article about the ozone layer, to remind the public on the Ozone Day. Facts about the ozone layer are available at the Environment Agencys web page: http://www.ust.is/einstaklingar/hnattraen-mengun/osonlagid/.