

Reporting Requirements under the Article 9 of the Montreal Protocol.

Period: 2005-2006 NORWAY

Article 9: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Norway controls national use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) through the implementation of Chapter 6 of a wider regulation entitled: *Regulation on limitation of use of health and environmental hazardous chemicals and other products* or, in short, *Regulation on Products*. Chapter 6 in this regulation is in line with the EC Regulation No. 2037/2000 on Ozone Depleting substances (ODS). 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 Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT).

During the period 2005-2006 Norway's actions pertinent to the requirements of Article 9 under the Montreal Protocol are summarised in the following.

Nordic co-operation

During the last two decades Norway has been co-operating actively with Danmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden on issues related to ozone layer depletion, through participation in the so-called Nordic Ozone Group (NOG) under the Nordic Council of Ministers. 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; discussion and planning of coordinated actions at the international level (EU, Montreal Protocol, other Conventions).

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; illegal trade; halon phase out in fire fighting equipment; destruction of ODS banks, co-ordination of actions with other multilateral agreements.

During the period 2005-2006, in particular, the Nordic Ozone Group finalised and published the following reports:

- Halon Critical Uses and Alternatives – A Nordic Perspective. This report gives an overview of the use of halon in the Nordic countries and provides information on current and future alternative extinguishing systems. The report is currently available at:
<http://www.norden.org/pub/sk/showpub.asp?pubnr=2005:578>
- Potential Ozone Depleting Substances – Uses and Alternatives in the Nordic Countries. This report concentrates on a few substances in use in the Nordic countries which are regarded as potential ODS. Alternatives to these substances are discussed in detail, along with known advantages and disadvantages. The report is currently available at:
<http://www.norden.org/pub/sk/showpub.asp?pubnr=2005:580>

Additionally, a substantial part of NOG's work from 2006 up to date has been concentrated on a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Nordic countries to control import, export and placing on the market of products containing ODS, as such products are prohibited or restricted under the EU regulation No 2037/2000 on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This project, which has been carried out in two phases covering the period 2006-2007, is presently close to completion. It has resulted in a document entitled:

- On Products Containing Ozone Depleting Substances – A Guide to Customs Officers and Inspectors in the Nordic Countries. This guidebook focuses primarily on controls on import and placing on the market of products and equipment containing ODS. It is expected to be used as a starting point for closer co-operation between involved authorities (i.e. inspectors, customs officers, police and prosecutors at all levels) and pave the ground for allocation of resources, collection of more experience and, eventually, specialised enforcement campaigns.

The report is expected to be officially published in the end of December 2007.

Monitoring of the atmospheric ozone layer and UV radiation

The atmospheric ozone layer over two Norwegian cities and over the Svarbard archipelago, are continuously monitored by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) on behalf of the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority.

Monitoring of UV radiation takes place at nine places in Norway and is coordinated by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority.

Reports on the monitoring of the atmospheric ozone layer and natural ultraviolet radiation are prepared and published on an annual basis. For the years 2005 and 2006 these reports can be accessed, respectively, through the following links:

<http://www.sft.no/publikasjoner/overvaking/2197/ta2197.pdf>

<http://www.nilu.no/data/inc/leverfil.cfm?id=23517&type=6>

Data on air quality and UV forecasts for Norway are available to the public via the web portal: www.luftkvalitet.info

A more detailed description of the Norwegian activities on ozone research and monitoring can be found in Norway's report under the sixth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers (Vienna, Austria, 19-21 September 2005).

Further information to the public and stakeholders

A comprehensive description of facts about the ozone layer, the relevant national circumstances, as well as the existing national and international legislation on the matter is available at SFT's web pages, in particular at: <http://www.miljostatus.no>.

During recent years SFT has made great efforts in preparing, extending and updating a web portal with information on industry-based legislation, launched in 2005. The main purpose of this service is to guide enterprises to the vast body of regulations. The website makes it easier for users to find out about requirements related to health, safety and the environment that government authorities have established for their industries.

This service, which is subject to continuous update and development, has been the product of a co-operation between SFT and other Norwegian authorities, i.e. the National Labour Inspection Authority, the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority and the National Industrial Safety and Security Organisation. The information provided is also available in English and can be accessed through the following link:

http://www.regelhjelp.no/Templates/CommonPage_10084.aspx