
HCFC Refrigerants

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.123

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Notice provides instructions for the use of hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants on board Bahamian ships.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Marine Notice applies to all Bahamian ships with HCFC refrigerants on board.

3. General requirements

- 3.1. Bahamian ships are subject to the requirements of Regulation 12 of Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78, as amended (MARPOL Annex VI).
- 3.2. Regulation 12 of MARPOL Annex VI prohibits the use of installations that contain HCFC:
 - i. on ships constructed on or after 1 January 2020; or
 - ii. in the case of ships constructed before 1 January 2020, which have a contractual delivery date of the equipment to the ship on or after 1 January 2020 or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery date of the equipment to the ship on or after 1 January 2020.
- 3.3. Each ship which has rechargeable systems that contain ozone depleting substances (ODS) shall maintain an ODS Record Book, as required by Regulation 12.6 of MARPOL Annex VI.
- 3.4. An ODS Record Book is not required when the ship has no ozone depleting substances on board, or ODS is contained within permanently sealed systems where there are no refrigerant charging connections or potentially removable components containing ozone-depleting substances.

4. ODS Record Book

- 4.1. The ODS Record Book may form part of an existing log-book or electronic record book as approved by the BMA.
- 4.2. The MARPOL Annex VI Record Books issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) have Codes for entering ODS operations. The BMA MARPOL Annex VI Record Book may therefore be used as an ODS Record Book.
- 4.3. Electronic Record Keeping Systems are also acceptable – see Marine Notice 9 and 10.
- 4.4. Entries in the ODS Record Book shall be recorded in terms of mass (kg) of substance and shall be completed without delay on each occasion, in respect of the following:
 - i. recharge, full or partial, of equipment containing ODS;
 - ii. repair or maintenance of equipment containing ODS;
 - iii. discharge of ODS to the atmosphere:
 - deliberate; and
 - non-deliberate;
 - iv. discharge of ODS to land-based reception facilities; and
 - v. supply of ODS to the ship.
- 4.5. Some areas (such as the European Union (EU)) have strict conditions on the supply and use of HCFC refrigerants on ships. It is envisaged that remaining stocks of HCFC will become increasingly expensive and difficult to obtain.
- 4.6. The BMA therefore recommends that that any installations containing HCFC are upgraded to alternative refrigerants to reduce the possibility of disruption to ship operations.

5. Queries

- 5.1. Any queries on this Notice may be addressed to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

