



## Fact Sheet

### Requests to Convert CFC-11 to CFC-12

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- In response to requests by several companies to convert CFC-11 to CFC-12, EPA has determined that the Clean Air Act (CAA) does not allow this conversion.
- The conversion of CFC-11 to CFC-12 constitutes prohibited "production" under the CAA and EPA's implementing regulations. Production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has been prohibited since 1996.
- This determination is consistent with EPA's commitment to send clear, consistent signals to the public and industry regarding CFC phase-out policies, and to allow free-market solutions to the ozone-depletion issue.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The CAA requires EPA to issue regulations to protect stratospheric ozone from ozone-depleting substances. This requirement includes managing the gradual phaseout of the production and consumption of CFCs. Several companies asked EPA to make a determination on whether it is permissible under the CAA to convert one type of ozone-depleting CFC compound, CFC-11, to another ozone-depleting compound, CFC-12.
- CFC-11 is a liquid used in sealed systems such as building chillers and is currently destroyed on a routine basis. CFC-12 is a gas often used in systems that are inherently leaky, such as car air conditioners. As a result, CFC-12 is more likely to be released into the atmosphere. Both CFC-11 and CFC-12 are being phased out and replaced with more ozone-friendly alternatives.
- EPA determined that allowing the conversion would result in a net harm to the ozone layer. Although the chemical conversion of CFC-11 to CFC-12 reduces the ozone damaging properties of the material, the unique characteristics and uses of CFC-11 and CFC-12 reveal that the conversion would cause both long term and near term damage to the ozone layer.
- Finally, EPA determined that the conversion would penalize industries that have developed and currently market more ozone-friendly alternatives to CFC-12. If more CFC-12 were to become available, repeated refills and continued emissions from leaky equipment and extended use of the leaky equipment would be likely. Additionally, if legally imported used CFC-11 were also converted, it could increase near term releases of ozone-depleting substances. Near term damage is of particular concern since the latest data and analysis suggests the ozone layer is currently at a its most depleted level.

#### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Interested parties may contact Jeanne Briskin at 202-564-9135 or by email at [briskin.jeanne@epa.gov](mailto:briskin.jeanne@epa.gov).