



MAINE OIL DEALERS ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #4.1

Clean Air Act Amendments:

Servicing Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners

and Selling Refrigerants

October, 1992

[Replaces MODA TB#4, issued January, 1992.]

On September 4, 1991, EPA published proposed rules to implement section 609 [servicing of motor vehicles and sale of refrigerants] of the Clean Air Act Amendments. Those rules outlined EPA's proposed approach to implementation and gave the necessary definitions for the statutory language. The final rule has now been issued (Federal Register Vol. 57, No. 135, 7/14/92, p.31261) and there are no substantive changes from the rules proposed last year. The implementation dates and key definitions are outlined below.

The rule and the certification form, and the *1988 Standard for Specifications for Fluorocarbon Refrigerants* from the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute are attached. The rule is short and easy to read.

KEY DATES

August 13 1992: No one may service a motor vehicle air conditioner for consideration without properly using approved equipment. There is a delay until *January 1, 1993* for those who certify to EPA that they serviced less than 100 vehicles in 1990.

November 15, 1992: The sale of refrigerant in small, retail containers (20 pounds or less) is restricted to someone who is properly trained and certified or someone who certifies to the seller that the containers are intended for resale only.

January 1, 1993: Anyone servicing or repairing motor vehicle air conditioners must certify to EPA that they have acquired, and are properly using, approved equipment. They must also certify that their technicians are properly trained and certified.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Service For Consideration: Includes all persons who are paid to perform service on motor vehicle air conditioners. EPA included a list [not exclusive] of establishments where covered service would likely be performed: independent repair shops, service stations, car and truck fleet shops, body shops, chain or franchised repair shops, new car and truck dealers, rental establishments, radiator repair shops, mobile repair operations, vocational technical schools, farm equipment dealerships and airports.

Motor Vehicle Air Conditioner (MVAC): MVAC means all mechanical vapor compression units that cool the driver or passenger compartments of self-propelled vehicles designed for transporting persons or property, including but not limited to farm vehicles, construction equipment, automobiles and trucks. All of the listed vehicles currently use CFC-12. MVAC does not cover hermetically sealed refrigeration systems that cool the storage containers of refrigerated transport trucks. However, the passenger air conditioning units of such transport trucks are included in the MVAC definition.

Refrigerant: Any class I or II substance (or blend thereof) used in a MVAC. Class I and II substances are comprised of the following:

1. CFC13 - Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)
2. CC12F2 - Dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12)
3. CC12F - CC1F2 - Trichlorotrifluoroethane (CFC-113)
4. CF2C1 - CC1F2 - Dichlorotetrafluoroethane (CFC-114)
5. CC1F2 - CF3 - (Mono)chloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115)

Standards: Standards for approved equipment, its proper use, and for the training and certification of technicians are included in the attached rule.