

ISSUE BRIEF

California updates plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

Recommendation could reduce use of common commercial foodservice equipment refrigerants

December 1, 2017

What change(s) are being considered?

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board (CARB) has recommended that the State phase down hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants commonly used in commercial foodservice equipment, such as R134 and R404. Specifically, California is considering driving industry to lower-Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants by adopting the following for new stationary refrigeration equipment:

- Placing restrictions on the sale or distribution of refrigerants with GWP > 2,500, and
- Prohibiting refrigerants with a GWP >= 150.

These are the latest recommendations in CARB's October 2017 "Scoping Plan. The plan builds on earlier recommendations and outlines steps the State may take to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon, fluorinated gases (refrigerants) and methane. Doing so is part of California's commitment to reduce (GHG) emissions by 40 percent by 2030 (from 1990 levels), and further reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050 (from 1990 levels). The full plan is posted here:

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/revise2017spu.pdf>

Is this a Federal, state or local issue?

This is a State of California issue. It is significant because actions taken in California are often a precursor to similar actions by other states, the federal government and Canadian officials. There is a great deal of worldwide effort being directed toward holding the global temperature rise to 2°C or less through 2050, so many states are likely considering similar approaches.

What organization recommended the change(s)?

California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board (CARB) is tasked with helping the State "confront the devastating effect of climate change." More information can be found at

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/shortlived.htm>.

How will this recommended change impact my business, and what should my company be doing about it?

CARB's recommendations send a clear signal about future actions California may consider to meet its GHG reduction targets. However, until the State specifically decides how it will implement CARB's recommendations, the impact on members is unclear. In the meantime, members have three courses of action:

1. Get involved with NAFEM to help shape California's requirements;
2. Engineer to meet the recommendations, since 2030 is not that far away in the product development cycle; and,
3. At a minimum, monitor CARB developments to understand how the recommendations could impact your business.

What is NAFEM doing to address this issue?

NAFEM is engaged in ongoing dialogue with CARB, and pleased with the agency's continued interest in developing collaborative solutions. We will continue to be actively involved on behalf of our members.

Who should I contact with questions?

For questions on this topic, please contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, NAFEM's vice president, regulatory & technical affairs: csouhrada@nafem.org or +1.312.821.0201.