

Nitrogen trifluoride added to the list of regulated synthetic greenhouse gases

Imports of bulk new NF_3 , bulk used NF_3 and equipment containing NF_3 all require the appropriate licence.

Additional perfluorocarbon added to the list of regulated synthetic greenhouse gases

Imports of bulk PFC-9-1-18 ($\text{C}_{10}\text{F}_{18}$) require a controlled substances licence and imports of equipment containing PFC-9-1-18 require an equipment licence.

Hydrofluorocarbon-161 removed from the list of scheduled substances

Hydrofluorocarbon-161, a gas with very low global warming potential, has been removed from the list of scheduled substances. Imports of bulk HFC-161 or equipment containing HFC-161 no longer require a licence.



Changes to hydrochlorofluorocarbon imports

Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigeration and air conditioning equipment may only be imported under certain circumstances.

HCFC refrigeration and air conditioning equipment may be imported if it is for personal use and has been owned by the importer for at least 12 months prior to import.

Replacement parts, containing a HCFC refrigerant, for pre-existing refrigeration and air conditioning equipment can be imported if the importer holds an equipment licence or meets eligibility criteria for a low volume import exemption. This provision expires on 31 December 2019.

Refrigeration and air conditioning equipment containing a HCFC refrigerant can be imported where the refrigeration or air conditioning equipment is incidental to the main import and it is impractical to remove or retrofit the equipment; for example, equipment incorporated into a large boat or drilling rig. The importer must either hold an equipment licence or be eligible for a low volume import threshold. This exemption expires on 31 December 2019.

More information

More information is available at www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone or contact the Import Operations Team on +61 2 6274 1373 or ozone@environment.gov.au.

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Australian Government

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Import arrangements for synthetic greenhouse gases have changed



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Customs brokers have an important role in helping their clients meet the legal requirements for importing synthetic greenhouse gases and equipment containing these gases. Synthetic greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride. You should be aware of some recent changes to the import requirements.

Used substances licences

Used hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3) are now on the list of substances managed by the used substances licence. Import or export of these used gases now requires a used substances licence. Previously there was no distinction between new and used for these gases.



Low volume imports

The low volume import conditions for equipment containing HFCs, PFCs, SF_6 and NF_3 changed in 2017. Importers who import up to 25 kilograms of synthetic greenhouse gases in equipment during a calendar year do not need an equipment licence. There is no limit on the number of pieces of equipment and the equipment may be imported in one or more consignment. The low volume import licence exemption applies only to equipment, it does not apply to bulk gas such as in cylinders or canisters.

Import quota for hydrofluorocarbons

The import of bulk HFCs is being phased down through a gradually decreasing import quota. Import of HFCs requires a quota allocation as well as a controlled substances licence to import synthetic greenhouse gas. Quota has already been allocated to importers for the 2018–2019 two year import period. The next opportunity to apply for import quota will be for the 2020–2021 import period. This only applies to bulk imports (such as tankers, cylinders and canisters) and not to equipment already containing HFCs (such as air-conditioning and refrigeration units).

Changes to Section 40 exemptions

Section 40 of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* is no longer in operation. Imports of certain prohibited equipment where an exemption may apply (e.g. halon fire suppression systems) are now managed through an equipment licence with conditions.

Renewal of licences

Licence holders are now able to renew their licence rather than having to apply for a new licence. Licence holders need to apply to renew their licence more than 60 days before it expires.

