



**EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (ECA)
OZONE PROTECTION AWARD FOR
CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
(4th edition)**

Award ceremony in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 25 May 2016

**Report of seizures and informal
prior-informed consent (iPIC) consultations**



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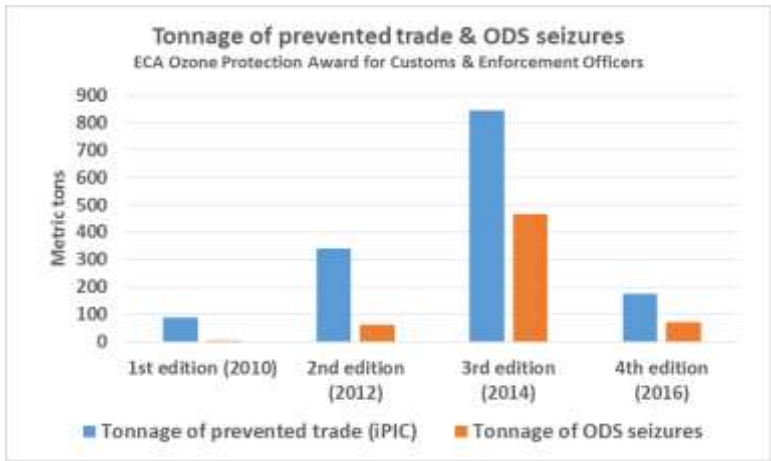
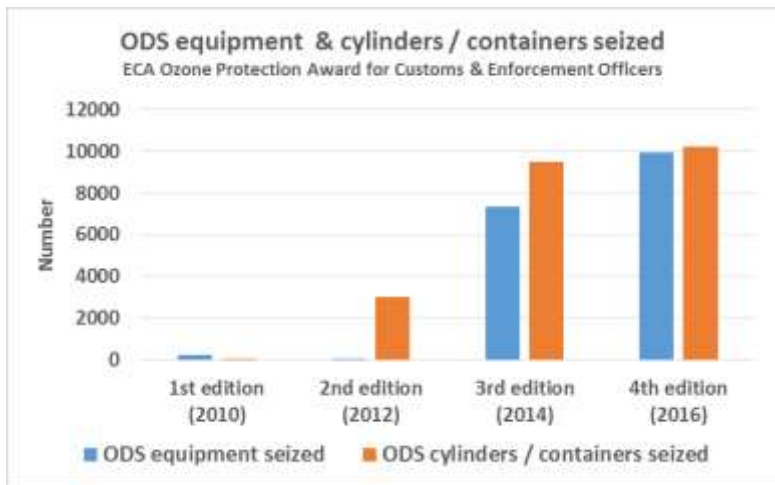
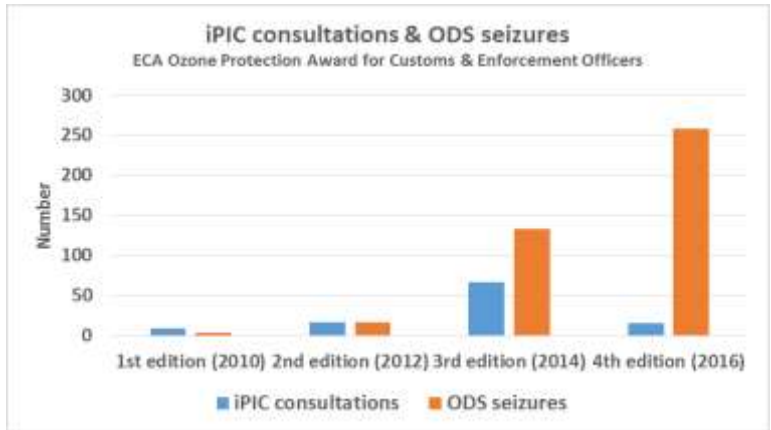
**4th EDITION OF THE EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
OZONE PROTECTION AWARD
FOR CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (2016)**

Ozone Protection Medals for Customs and Enforcement Officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, European Union, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan



Customs and enforcement officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, European Union (EU), Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan received the Ozone Protection Award 2016 of the UN Environment Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia (ECA network) during the ECA customs cooperation meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 24-25 May 2016.

Between May 2014 and April 2016, the award winners reported 258 seizures of 9,947 pieces of equipment and 10,201 refrigerant cylinders / cans containing more than 70 tonnes of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), mixtures, products and equipment. In addition, informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) consultations before the issuance of trade licenses, avoided 16 unwanted / illegal shipments of more than 174 tonnes of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures. Ukraine also estimates that about 50,000 split air-conditioning systems illegally entered the country over past years, which were declared as HFC-134a equipment but actually contained HCFC-22.



The award is endorsed by the World Customs Organization, Ozone Secretariat, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, UN Environment OzonAction as well as the meeting host, the State Committee on Environment Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan. Representatives of all organizations signed the award certificates.

1st edition of the Europe and Central Asia Ozone Protection Award (2010)

UN Environment OzonAction launched the ECA Ozone Protection Award for Customs and Enforcement Officers in 2010 as part of the activities of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia (ECA network). The inaugural award ceremony took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 15 October 2010. Customs and enforcement officers from



Armenia, China, Croatia, European Union, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Serbia received certificates and medals of honour for their efforts in preventing illegal trade in ODS and ODS equipment. Between January 2009 and June 2010, the award winners reported 4 seizures of 248 pieces of equipment and 35 refrigerant cylinders /

containers containing 368 kg of ODS. In addition, iPIC consultations before the issuance of trade licenses, avoided 9 unwanted / illegal shipments of 87 tonnes of ODS. More than 805 tonnes of illegal trade in ODS, which had taken place in the past, was also detected.

2nd edition of the Europe and Central Asia Ozone Protection Award (2012)

The second edition of the award ceremony took place in Istanbul, Turkey on 11 October 2012 with customs and enforcement officers from **China, European Union, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia FYR, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Uzbekistan**



honoured for their strong commitment to addressing the illegal / unwanted trade in ODS. Between July 2010 and August 2012, the awardees reported 17 seizures of 72 pieces of equipment and 3,016 refrigerant cylinders / containers containing more than 61 tonnes of ODS. In addition, iPIC

consultations before the issuance of trade licenses, avoided 16 unwanted / illegal shipments of more than 342 tonnes of ODS. More than 103 tonnes of illegal trade in ODS, which had taken place in the past, was also detected.

3rd edition of the Europe and Central Asia Ozone Protection Award (2014)



The third edition of the award ceremony took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21 May 2014 with customs and enforcement officers from **Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Cyprus, European Union, Georgia, Germany, India,**

Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan honoured for their strong commitment to addressing illegal / unwanted trade in ODS. Between September 2012 and April 2014, the award winners reported 133 seizures of 7,370 pieces of equipment (appliances and compressors) and 9,513 refrigerant cylinders / containers holding more than 467 tonnes of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures. In addition, iPIC consultations before the issuance of trade licenses, avoided 67 unwanted / illegal shipments of more than 846 tonnes of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures. More than 175 tonnes of illegal trade in ODS, which had taken place in the past, was also detected.

Report of seizures of ozone depleting substances

(May 2014 – April 2016)

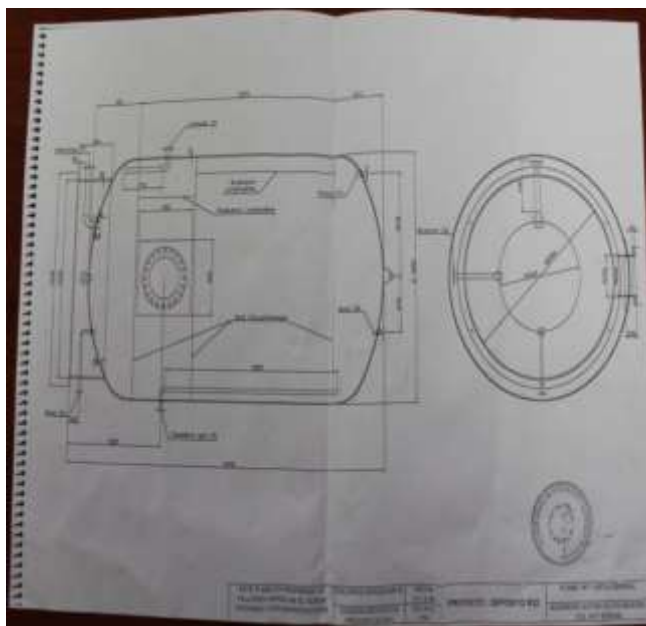
1) Spain >>> several other countries: Seizure of 37,000 kg of R22 - investigation of 25 companies possibly involved in the illegal trade of R22 with fishing vessels docking in ports of the Autonomous Community of Galicia.

1 seizure	20 cylinders	No equipment seized	37,000 kg R22
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The SEPRONA unit of the Civil Guard in Spain was entrusted by the national Public Prosecutor Office for the Protection of the Environment to investigate for possible illegal trading in substances that deplete the ozone layer. In 2013 and 2014, the investigations focused on online trade of legal and ozone-depleting refrigerants as well as possible illegal trade activities in Spanish harbours as significant amounts of R22 refrigerant had been seized on fishing vessels in the past.



Storage facility R22 (37,000 kg)



Storage scheme (capacity 37,000 kg)

Investigation found fishing vessels from different countries of origin docking in ports of the Autonomous Community of Galicia to purchase R22 for servicing of cooling equipment on board. However, import and export of R22 in the European Union (EU) is only allowed by companies authorised by the European Commission. A search in the Commission's electronic licensing system revealed the name of only one company authorised to trade refrigerants with fishing vessels.

Further investigation found that the company in question had illegally traded virgin R22 with companies based in Spain and other EU countries because EU legislation does not allow sale or use of virgin hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The company had also

sold R22 to companies in non-EU countries without obtaining a valid trade licence and without properly stating in the customs declaration form that it was shipping ozone-depleting refrigerants.



Refrigerant cylinders seized in the port of the Autonomous Community of Galicia

As a result, 37,000 kg of R22 was seized and, besides the investigated company, another 24 companies were identified as being possibly involved in the illegal trade of R22.

2) Spain: Investigation of illegal online trade of ODS resulted in the charging of four people in Cadiz, Gerona, Barcelona and Alicante and the seizure of six refrigerant cylinders containing 62 kg of R22.

4 seizures	6 cylinders	No equipment seized	62 kg R22
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CYBERCRIME

As part of its probe of the possible illegal trade in substances that deplete the ozone layer, the SEPRONA unit of the Civil Guard investigated refrigerants offered for sale online.

The investigation started with a thorough “sweep” of websites advertising R22 refrigerants and products for sale. A number of advertisements selling HCFC and even chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants mostly for recharging refrigeration equipment, were identified. In one case, an online seller was offering a cylinder containing 60 kg of R22 in Madrid. That individual and another online seller in Valencia, were accused and prosecuted. Eleven more cases of breaches of the Spanish regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer were detected.



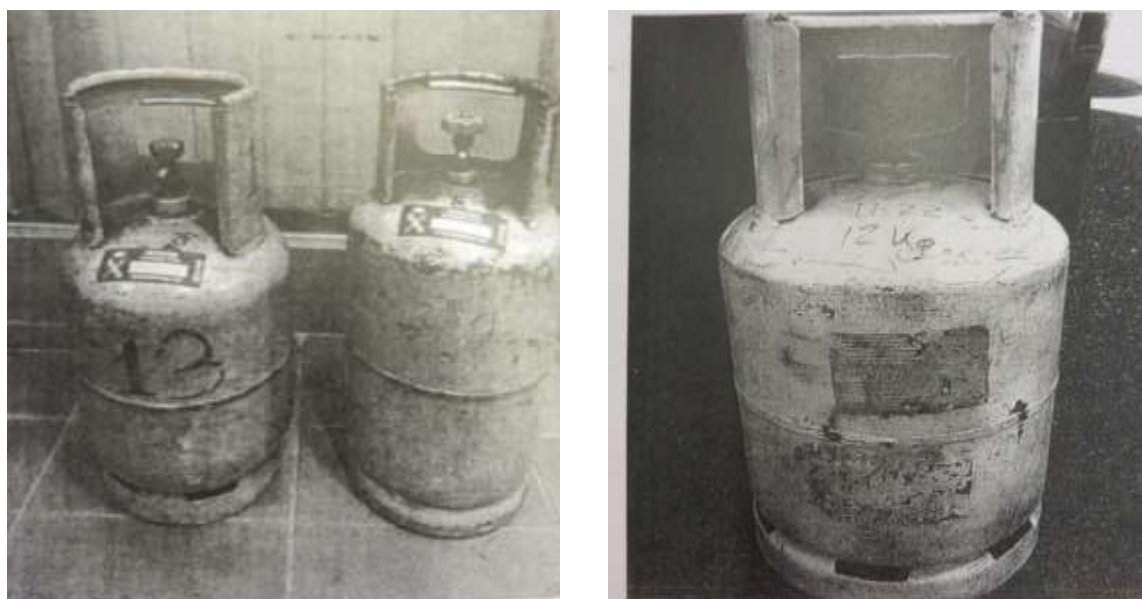
Seized refrigerant cylinders offered for online sale

The operation, initiated after a successful investigation of the illegal online trade of ODS in 2012 and 2013 in Las Palmas, Tenerife and Zaragoza, led to the arrest of 110 persons and the seizure of large quantities of refrigerants, particularly R22.

The investigation continued in 2014 with another campaign to track the same type of refrigerants and products being sold online. Although previous campaigns had resulted in a considerable decline in the number of online advertisements, it was still possible to find R22 being offered for sale online. Around 20 advertisements were detected on different websites.

Inspectors from the SEPRONA unit contacted the person offering the refrigerants for sale online, using the phone numbers and emails listed in the advertisement, pretending they were interested buyers. The strategy was to arrange a personal meeting to verify that the cylinders were actually in the seller's possession.

The initiative resulted in the charging of one person each in Cadiz, Gerona, Barcelona and Alicante and the seizure of a total of six bottles containing 62 kg of R22 which had been advertised for sale on different websites. The seized cylinders were analysed and temporarily stored in the Central Customs Laboratory. The cylinders were so old that the original labels were not visible. Investigation revealed that they had been purchased legally by authorised companies.



Seized refrigerant cylinders offered on internet

Legal prosecution is continuing with one offender already sentenced to six months in prison, a fine of € 730 and prohibited for six years from practising any profession resulting in air pollution.

3) Romania: Seizure of 244.8 kg of ODS - 10 cylinders of R12 (136 kg) and 8 cylinders of R22 (108.8 kg) - illegally offered for sale online.

1 seizure	18 cylinders	No equipment seized	244.8 kg R12 - 136 kg R22 - 108.8 kg
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CYBERCRIME

In June 2014, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Romania was informed by the European Commission of an email correspondence advertising refrigerant cylinders containing R12, R22, R404A, R407C, R410A and R134a refrigerants for sale. The price quoted was around €110 / cylinder and discounts were offered for larger quantities.

The Ministry notified the National Environmental Guard (NEG) and, in cooperation with the County Police Inspectorate, located the person trying to sell the banned refrigerants. Further investigation found some commercial websites advertising controlled refrigerants for sale.

The online seller was contacted by email and through phone numbers listed on the websites which were located in Radauti, Suceava in the north of Romania. When questioned, the person declared that the cylinders were from non-EU countries (Moldova and Ukraine). The cylinders were available for purchase at the person's address but could also be sent to the buyer by road or train.

Enforcement officers seized 244.8 kg of ODS, including ten cylinders of R12 (136 kg) and 8 cylinders of R22 (108.8 kg). Under Romanian law, the sale of banned ozone-depleting substances is a crime, punishable with imprisonment ranging from six months to three years and the person responsible in this case was jailed for six months.

4) Romania: Seizure of 57 kg of R22 being exported without a licence and without reporting the quantities to the authorities.

1 seizure	10 cylinders	No equipment seized	57 kg R22
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In August 2014, the customs unit of the Ministry of Public Finances in Romania notified the country's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change about an attempt to export 57 kg R22 from Constanta harbour without proper documentation. The company exporting the R22 was required to obtain an export licence as well as report the quantities to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

Notified by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the National Environmental Guard after an inspection, seized the refrigerants and found administrative irregularities in the company's operations, leading to a penalty of 15,000 Lei (almost € 3,400) on the company.

5) China >>> Russia: Seizure of 15,640 kg of R22 in 1,150 cylinders – mis-declared and mis-labelled as R134a.

1 seizure	1,150 cylinders	No equipment seized	15,640 kg R22
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On 26 November 2014, customs officers in Vyborg in Russia seized 15,640 kg of R22 in 1,150 cylinders, disguised as R134a. The ship consignment from China was unloaded at the seaport of Kotka in Finland and then transported by lorry to Russia. When it arrived at the customs check-point on 14 November 2014, the cylinders, boxed in cartons marked as R134a, were declared as R134a. On opening of the boxes, however, the cylinders were quite clearly labelled as R22.

Import of R22 into Russia was banned at the end of 2014 as domestic production was deemed sufficient to meet domestic needs. R22 prices are high in Russia, making the smuggling of cheap R22 from China particularly attractive. The shipment was valued at nearly US\$ 38,000. The cylinders were seized and legal action initiated.

6) Georgia: Seizure of 1 non-refillable cylinder labelled and actually containing 13.6 kg of R12 – import of R12 is banned.

1 seizure	1 cylinder	No equipment seized	13.6 kg R12
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On 8 June 2014, Georgian customs officer at the terminal of Ltd. Georgian Post received the customs declaration and supporting documents for the import of one non-refillable cylinder containing 13.6 kg of R12. The cylinder itself was labelled as refrigerant R12.



Since import of R12 is prohibited in Georgia, the cylinder was seized. After tests had confirmed that the cylinder contained pure R12 (98 per cent), its serial number was recorded and the cylinder transferred to Tbilisi for destruction. No fines were levied and no legal action initiated.

Seized R12 refrigerant cylinder

7) Armenia >>> Georgia: Two seizures of refrigerant cylinders containing R22 – no licenses nor documentation.

2 seizures	2 cylinders	No equipment seized	27.2 kg R22
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In two separate cases on 3 and 5 June 2015, customs officers at the customs checkpoint “Sadakhlo” in Georgia found a non-refillable refrigerant cylinder being transported by private parties in their cars. Both cylinders were labelled as R22 refrigerant and actually contained 13.6 kg of R22 each. On analysis, the first cylinder was found to contain 96 per cent and the second 99 per cent R22. The private individuals did not have licenses to import R22 into Georgia or any other document. The first cylinder was seized and transferred to Tbilisi for destruction while the second was sent back to Armenia. No fines were levied and no legal action initiated.

8) Russia >>> Georgia: Seizure of 3 non-refillable refrigerant cylinders found in a vehicle and containing R22 (unlabelled), R134a and R410a – no licence nor documentation.

1 seizure	3 cylinders	No equipment seized	40.8 kg R22 - 13.6 kg R134a - 13.6 kg R410a - 13.6 kg
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On 9 September 2015, a light duty vehicle entered the customs checkpoint “Kazbegi” in Georgia. During inspection of the vehicle, customs officers discovered three non-refillable cylinders, each containing 13.6 kg of refrigerant, one without a label, the second labelled as R134a and the third labelled as R410a.



Seized R134a and R410a cylinders



Unlabelled refrigerant cylinders containing R22

The importer did not have any documents. Analysis of the contents showed that the unlabelled cylinder contained R22, the cylinder labelled as R134a contained R134a and the cylinder labelled as R410a contained R410A, a blend of R32 and R125. Serial numbers of the two labelled cylinders were recorded and all cylinders sent to Tbilisi for destruction. No fines were levied and no legal action initiated.

9) Bosnia & Herzegovina >>> Croatia: Seizure of 4 refrigerant cylinders containing R22, R404 and R410a - not declared.

1 seizure	4 cylinders	No equipment seized	47.1 kg R22 - 13.6 kg R404 - 10.9 kg R410a - 22.6 kg
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On 8 December 2015, upon arrival at the BCP Maljevac customs checkpoint in Croatia, a private Croatian national did not declare four refrigerant cylinders placed in the trunk of his car. These included one cylinder of R404 (10.9 kg), one cylinder of R22 (13.6 kg) and two cylinders of R410A (11.3 kg each). The cylinders were seized and action under



misdemeanour procedures initiated against the offender along with a € 300 fine plus the costs of the procedures. The report has been sent to ODS inspection unit within the Ministry of Environment and further investigation initiated. Under Croatian law, only duly registered individuals can deal with hydrofluorocarbons (HFC).

Refrigerant cylinders hidden in a private car

10) Iran >>> Turkmenistan: Seizure of five refrigerant cylinders containing 65 kg of R22 and four cylinders containing 5 kg of R11 – no licence nor documentation.

1 seizure	9 cylinders	No equipment seized	70 kg R22 - 65 kg R11 - 5 kg
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In August 2014, enforcement officers inspecting the cargo of a truck at the customs station "Hazar" in the Balkan Welayat region of Turkmenistan found a large wooden box holding five refrigerant cylinders containing 65 kg R22 and four cylinders containing 5 kg R11. The refrigerants were coming from Iran and being sent to a legal entity in Turkmenistan. The shipment was not accompanied by a licence or other documents.

Under the Montreal Protocol, as well as under Turkmen law, import of R11 is prohibited and import of R22 requires an import licence from the state authority "Turkmenhimiya". The cylinders were sent back to the exporting country at the expense of the importer. No fines were levied and no legal action initiated.

11) United Arab Emirates >>> Turkmenistan: Seizure of 16 refrigerant cylinders containing 217.6 kg of R22 and 2 refrigerant cylinders containing 27.2 kg of R22 – no licence nor documentation

2 seizures	18 cylinders	No equipment seized	244.6 kg R22
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In April 2015, officers at the customs station "Hasar" of the Balkan Welayat region of Turkmenistan found 16 refrigerant cylinders containing 217.6 kg of R22 during manual inspection of the cargo of a truck. The refrigerants were coming from the United Arab Emirates and intended for a legal entity in Turkmenistan. The shipment was not accompanied with a licence or other documents.

Earlier, in November 2014, officers at the customs point "Beyik Serdar Yoly" found two refrigerant cylinders containing 27 kg of R22 during manual inspection of the cargo of a truck. The truck driver did not have a licence or any documentation for the refrigerant. The goods were shipped from the United Arab Emirates to Turkmenistan and intended for a private individual.

Under the Montreal Protocol as well as under Turkmen law, the import of R22 requires an import licence from the state authority "Turkmenhimiya". The goods, in both cases, were shipped back to the exporting country at the expense of the importer. No fines were levied and no legal action initiated.

12) China >>> Turkey: Seizure of 3,100 refrigerant cylinders of R22 - imported by an unauthorized company and mis-declared as HFCs (R404, R410a and R-134a).

1 seizure	327 cylinders	No equipment seized	4,447.2 kg R22
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On 4 June 2014, in the Western Mediterranean (Antalya) region of Turkey, a Turkish company, not registered as an importer, tried to import 3,100 cylinders of what it claimed were HFCs R404, R410A and R134a, which had arrived from China by ship. Detailed examination and analysis of the contents revealed that 327 cylinders contained R22.

Under Turkish law R22 can be imported only by registered importers and with a valid import licence. The cylinders were seized and legal proceedings initiated.

13) United Arab Emirates >>> Uzbekistan >>> Kyrgyzstan: Illegal shipment of 7,568.6 kg of refrigerants in freight train container – mis-declaration of refrigerant type, quantity and HS codes.

1 seizure	3,190 cylinders	No equipment seized	7,568.6 kg R12 - 1,360 kg R22 - 2,110 kg R134a - 3,280 kg R404A - 603.9 kg R407C - 214.7 kg
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On 2 August 2014, a customs officer from the Andijan region of Uzbekistan discovered an illegal shipment of refrigerants in a container on a freight train arriving at the "Savay" railway station in the country. The shipment was transiting through Uzbekistan, on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Kyrgyzstan and contained 7,568.6 kg of different refrigerants as follows:

- 100 cylinders of R12 (1,360 kg in total)
- 440 cylinders of different sizes, each containing from 1 to 13.6 kg of R22 (2,110 kg in total)
- 2,520 cylinders of different sizes, each containing from 0.32 to 13.6 kg of R134a (3,280 kg in total)
- 111 cylinders of R404A, each containing 0.8 kg or 10.9 kg of R404A (603.9 kg in total) and
- 19 cylinders of R407C (214.7 kg in total).



Seizure of refrigerant cylinders with incorrect shipping documents on a freight train



Seizure of refrigerant cylinders with incorrect shipping documents on a freight train

The shipment was accompanied with the shipping document (invoice) but the type of refrigerants, quantity and harmonized system (HS) codes were incorrect. The goods were seized and 100 cylinders of R12 were stored for destruction. All other refrigerants were to be offered for sale in the domestic market. Legal proceedings were initiated.

14) Iran >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan: Seizure of one refrigerant cylinder containing 54.4 kg R22 – not declared and concealed among other goods.

1 seizure	1 cylinder	No equipment seized	54.4 kg R22
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On 14 September 2014, during customs inspection of a transit truck cargo from Iran to Tajikistan, customs officers from Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan discovered one cylinder labelled as Isceon 22 with a total weight of 54.4 kg, which was concealed among other goods and not declared in the shipping documents. The cylinder was seized for sale in the domestic market. Legal proceedings were initiated and the truck driver was fined 53,817 Uzbekistani Som.

15) Turkey >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan: Seizure of one cylinder of R12 from a truck during transit - not declared.

1 seizure	1 cylinder	No equipment seized	13.6 kg R12
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On 19 February 2015, during customs inspection of a truck during transit from Turkey to Tajikistan, customs officers from Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan discovered one cylinder containing 13.6 kg R12, which was not declared in the shipping documents. The cylinder was seized and stored for destruction. Legal proceedings were initiated and the truck driver fined 59,200 Uzbekistani Som.

16) Kazakhstan >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan: Illegal shipment of 659 refrigerant cans of R134a (1 kg each) on two occasions – not declared and concealed among other goods.

2 seizures	659 cans	No equipment seized	659 kg R134a
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Customs officers from the Syrdarya region of Uzbekistan discovered illegal shipments of refrigerants on two separate occasions during inspections of freight trains arriving at the railway station "Khavast" while transiting through the country on way from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan.

On 6 May 2015, they found 304 cans, each containing 1 kg of R134a - a total of 304 kg. On 17 July 2015, they discovered 355 cans, each containing 1 kg of R134a – a total of 355 kg.

The cylinders were concealed among other goods and not declared in the shipping documents. The cylinders were seized for sale in the domestic market and legal proceedings initiated.



Seized refrigerant containers concealed among other goods in railway containers

17) Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan: Seizure of 770 disposable refrigerant cans being carried by a pedestrian in a hand trolley over the border – no licence nor documentation.

1 seizure	770 cans	No equipment seized	189.2 kg R12 - 80 kg R22 - 30 kg R600 - 79.2 kg
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On 26 April 2014, officers at the customs post “Sox” in Uzbekistan detained an Uzbek national entering Uzbekistan from Kyrgyzstan while pushing a hand trolley containing 770 disposable cans of refrigerants. These included 80 cans of R12 (80 kg), 30 cans of R22 (30 kg) and 660 cans of 120 g each of R600 (79.2 kg). The person had no purchase documents for the cans which were not labelled properly. Only the R600 labelled cans had information on country of origin.

Analysis of the contents of the cylinders showed that the cans labelled R22 contained 98.4 per cent R22 and 1.6 per cent hydrocarbons while the cans labelled R12 contained 100 per cent R12.

The cans containing R12 were seized and stored for destruction while the R22 and R600 cans were confiscated for the sale in the domestic market. Legal proceedings were initiated and the shipper was fined 672,735 Uzbekistani Som.

18) Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan: Several cases of smuggling of 1,361.16 kg of refrigerants by private parties hidden in the baggage compartment of their private cars – no licences nor documentation

7 seizures	2,358 cylinders	No equipment seized	1,361.16 kg R12 - 971.76 kg R134a - 210 kg R600a - 121.4 kg R22 - 58 kg
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In 2014 and 2015, customs officers, border services officers of the military and officers of the anti-smuggling department of Fergana region of Uzbekistan prevented several cases of smuggling involving 1,361.16 kg of refrigerants by private Uzbek nationals from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan, with cylinders and cans hidden in baggage compartments of private cars. The reported cases are as follows:

- on 21 February 2014: 354.4 kg of R12 (4 cylinders, each containing 13.6 kg and 300 disposable cans, each containing 1 kg)
- on 26 April 2014: 27.2 kg of R134a (2 cylinders, each containing 13.6 kg)

- on 13 May 2014: 114 kg of R12 (114 cans, each containing 1 kg)
- on 12 July 2014: 288 kg of R12 (288 cans, each containing 1 kg) and 163.2 kg of R134a (12 cylinders, each containing 13.6 kg)
- on 24 April 2015: 177 kg of R12 (141 cans, each containing 1 kg and 120 cans, each containing 0.3 kg) and 20.4 kg of R600a (102 cans, each containing 0.2 kg)
- on 8 June 2015: 101 kg of R600a (1,010 cans, each containing 100 g)
- on 4 August 2015: 58 kg of R22 (58 cans, each containing 1 kg), 38.36 kg of R12 (137 cans, each containing 0.28 kg) and 19.6 kg of R134a (70 cans, each containing 0.28 kg).

Analysis of the first four seizures found that the contents matched the labels on the cans and cylinders. The other seizures were not analysed. The cans with R12 were seized and stored for destruction, while the other containers were offered for sale in the domestic market. Legal proceedings were initiated and the individuals responsible were fined a total of five million Uzbekistani Som. For one case, information about the fine is not available.

19) Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan: Several cases of illegal possession of 1,007 kg of refrigerants by private parties and stored at their homes – no documentation.

2 seizures	1,610 cylinders	No equipment seized	1,007 kg R12 - 650 kg R22 - 357 kg
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In 2014 and 2015, officers of the anti-smuggling department of Fergana regional department of the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan identified several cases of illegal possession of 1,007 kg of refrigerants by private Uzbek nationals and stored at their homes. The refrigerants were illegally transported from Kyrgyzstan. At the time of seizure, no documentation on acquisition of the refrigerants was available. The reported cases are as follows:

- on 3 July 2014: 184 kg of R12 (10 cylinders, each containing 13.6 kg and 48 disposable cans, each containing 1 kg)
- on 25 February 2015: 357 kg of R22 (357 disposable cans, each containing 1 kg) and 466 kg of Chuangxin R12 (1,195 cans, each containing 0.39 kg).

The cans of R12 were seized and stored for destruction, while the other containers were offered for sale in the domestic market. Legal proceedings were initiated and the individuals responsible were fined a total of 1.2 million Uzbekistani Som.



Refrigerant cans and cylinders illegally imported from Kyrgyzstan

20) Belgium >>> Nigeria, Cameroon, and Togo: European Commission reported 174 seizures of equipment containing R12 and R22 by customs authorities in Belgium in 2014 – export of ODS-containing equipment is banned.

174 seizures	No cylinder seized	9,830 equipment 2,344 refrigerators 7,486 compressors	No substance seized
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The European Commission reported 174 seizures of equipment containing R12 and R22 in Belgium by customs authorities in 2014. These included 2,344 refrigerators / freezers and air-conditioning units along with 7,486 cooling compressors. Most of the equipment originated in Germany, France and the Netherlands and was destined mainly for Nigeria, Cameroon, Guinea and Togo. The seized goods were destroyed.

21) Greece: European Commission reported 4 seizures of 1,467 kg of R22 in Greece in 2014 hidden in private cars, a bus and a truck.

4 seizures	45 cylinders	No equipment seized	1,467 kg R22
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The European Commission reported four separate seizures of R22 in Greece in 2014 with customs authorities in Kavala seizing a total of 45 cylinders / containers with 1,467 kg of R22, as follows:

- In February 2014, a customs check found 32 containers hidden in a special crypt in the luggage compartment of a tourist bus. A total of 1,043.2 kg of R22 was seized.
- On 9 July 2014, a customs check found two containers hidden in the luggage compartment of a private car entering the country. A total of 65.2 kg of R22 was seized.
- On 10 July 2014, a customs check found six containers hidden in various places in a truck entering Greece. A total of 195.6 kg of R22 was seized.
- On 4 August 2014, a customs check found 5 containers hidden in the luggage compartment of a private car entering the country. A total of 163 kg of R22 was seized.

22) Germany: The European Commission reported 48 seizures of equipment, the seizure of 210 kg of halon in fire extinguishers and 15 kg of halon offered for sale online.

48 seizures	Fire extinguishers	117 equipment 38 refrigerators 68 compressors 4 truck ref. units 7 car AC units	225 kg halon
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Between May and December 2014, the European Commission reported 48 seizures of equipment in Germany including 38 refrigerators, 68 cooling compressors, four truck refrigeration units and seven car air-conditioning units containing R12 and R22. In addition, 225 kg of halon was seized, of which 210 kg were found by customs in fire extinguishers aboard a vessel and the rest was offered for sale online.



Medal and certificate given to award winners

Countries involved	Seizures			
	No. of seizures	No. of cylinders	No. of equipment	Amount seized in kg
Spain >>> different countries	1	20	-	37,000
Spain	4	6	-	62
Romania	1	18	-	244.8
Romania	1	10	-	57
China >>> Russia	1	1,150	-	15,640
Georgia	1	1	-	13.6
Armenia >>> Georgia	2	1	-	27.2
Russia >>> Georgia	1	3	-	40.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina >>> Croatia	1	4	-	47.1
Iran >>> Turkmenistan	1	9	-	70
United Arab Emirates >>> Turkmenistan	2	18	-	244.6
China >>> Turkey	1	327	-	4,447.2
UAE >>> Uzbekistan >>> Kyrgyzstan	1	3,190	-	7,568.6
Iran >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan	1	1	-	54.4
Turkey >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan	1	1	-	13.6
Kazakhstan >>> Uzbekistan >>> Tajikistan	2	659	-	659
Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan	1	770	-	189.2
Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan	7	2,358	-	1,361.16
Kyrgyzstan >>> Uzbekistan	2	1,610	-	1,007
Belgium >>> Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo	174	-	9,830	-
Greece	4	45	-	1,467
Germany	48	-	117	225
TOTAL	258	10,201	9,947	70,439.26

Report of informal prior informed consent (iPIC) consultations

(May 2014 – April 2016)

Countries involved	Case description	Avoided trade	
		No. of queries	Avoided in kg
China >>> Kyrgyzstan	iPIC consultation of 6 March 2014 between China and Kyrgyzstan resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 5,040 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The Kyrgyz company was not registered as an importer and did not apply for an import licence.	1	5,040
China >>> Ukraine	iPIC consultation of 14 April 2014 between China and Ukraine resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 31,008 kg of R406a for refrigeration use. The Ukrainian company did not apply for an import licence.	1	31,008
Bosnia and Herzegovina >>> Serbia	iPIC consultation of 7 August 2014 between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 2,706.4 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The company from Bosnia and Herzegovina was not registered as an exporter. The Serbian importer re-applied for a licence to import from a different, registered exporter and the licence was issued in November 2014.	1	2,706
European Union >>> Serbia	iPIC consultation of 30 July 2015 between Serbia and the European Union resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 1,000 kg of product NAF P IV containing 90% of HCFC-123 for firefighting. The EU exporter did not apply for an export licence. The Serbian importer re-applied for a licence to import from a different, registered exporter and the licence was issued in September 2015.	1	1,000
European Union >>> Australia	iPIC consultation of 7 January 2014 between the European Union and Australia resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 1 kg of halon for fire-fighting. The Australian company did not have an import licence.	1	1
European Union >>> Guyana	iPIC consultation of 18 March 2014 between the European Union and Guyana resulted in the cancellation of two licensing requests for 4,039 kg and 707 kg, respectively, of R22 for refrigeration use. The reason for cancellation was the delayed shipment for the first request and the importer cancelled the order for the second one. The shipments were exported later that year with the approval of NOU Guyana.	2	4,800

Countries involved	Case description	Avoided trade	
		No. of queries	Avoided in kg
China >>> European Union	iPIC consultation of 5 September 2014 between China and the European Union resulted in the rejection of the licensing request for 60,000 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The subject of the iPIC consultations were two import licenses for 20,000 kg and 60,000 kg, each of HCFC from an importer registered in the European Union. The first licence was genuine, but the other was not. The Chinese exporter used the first import licence to falsify the second one. The importer had applied for two more 20,000 kg licenses which were issued by the EU. After learning of the fraudulent activities of their trade partner, the EU importer cancelled all three import permits and changed the supplier.	2	60,000
European Union >>> Iraq	iPIC consultation of 8 April 2014 between the European Union and Iraq resulted in the rejection of a licensing request for 28,560 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The importer was not listed in the Iraqi quota system. The importer later contacted the Iraqi NOU and submitted the required documentation. The substance was exported in the beginning of May 2014 with the approval of the Iraqi authorities.	1	28,560
European Union >>> Japan	iPIC consultation of 30 October 2014 between the European Union and Japan resulted in the cancellation of a licensing request for 285 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The European Union exporter cancelled the licence because it noticed the error.	1	285
European Union >>> Angola	iPIC consultation of 4 December 2014 between the European Union and Angola resulted in the cancellation of a licensing request for 456 kg of R22 for refrigeration use. The European Union exporter cancelled the licence.	1	456

Countries involved	Case description	Avoided trade	
		No. of queries	Avoided in kg
European Union >>> Brazil	iPIC consultation of 10 February 2015 between the European Union and Brazil resulted in the rejection of a licensing request for 19,240 kg of bromochloromethane (BCM) for feedstock use. All BCM imports are prohibited in Brazil.	1	19,420
European Union >>> Singapore	iPIC consultation of 3 August 2015 between Singapore and the European Union resulted in the rejection of a licensing request for an unknown amount of halon-1301 and halon-1211 for firefighting use. The EU exporter was not registered.	1	-
China >>>European Union	iPIC consultation of 14 September 2015 between the European Union and China resulted in the cancellation of a licensing request for 2,250 kg of HCFC-123 for firefighting use. The licence application was cancelled upon request of the applicant.	1	2,250
Total		16	174,766

Enforcement relevant information:

OzonAction website: www.unep.org/ozonaction

Go to: Topics > Customs & Enforcement

Customs Quick Tool for Screening ODS

- Compare the packing list, bill of lading and the country of origin to ensure that they match.
- Ensure the customs code on the entry matches the description on the invoice.
- Compare the invoice and the bill of lading to the outward bound ship manifest.
- Verify the country of origin, is the country a party to the Montreal Protocol and its Amendment?
- Verify that the importer and place of business activity match.
- Contact the licensing agency to verify that the importer is licensed to import these specific materials.
- Have the quantity, source and destination of the ODS. There will never be important clues to legal imports.
- Verify with the ODS producer that the container number activity accords. The discovery of fictitious container numbers has led to the disclosure of illegal trade.
- Review all the necessary documents, if something does not match, it may be an illegal shipment. Inspect the merchandise.
- Check packaging, size and shape of the container and its label.
- Identify the name and description of the chemical, which should match ALL paperwork.
- Check the means if the importer does not have the import/export license.
- Coordinate this sector with the Customs, environmental agency and prosecution agency. Anyone involved with the sector may be called to testify at court, so take good notes.

Stop the Smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances

Most popular refrigerants trade names

Brand	Chemical name	Formula	AMMRA # for refrigerant group	UNF #	HS code
Freon 12	Dichlorodifluoromethane	CF ₂ Cl ₂	8.124	A1	2903.39
Freon 13	Trichlorofluoromethane	CFCl ₃	8.125	A1	2903.39
Freon 14	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.126	A1	2903.39
Freon 15	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.127	A1	2903.39
Freon 16	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.128	A1	2903.39
Freon 17	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.129	A1	2903.39
Freon 18	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.130	A1	2903.39
Freon 19	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.131	A1	2903.39
Freon 20	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.132	A1	2903.39
Freon 21	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.133	A1	2903.39
Freon 22	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.134	A1	2903.39
Freon 23	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.135	A1	2903.39
Freon 24	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.136	A1	2903.39
Freon 25	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.137	A1	2903.39
Freon 26	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.138	A1	2903.39
Freon 27	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.139	A1	2903.39
Freon 28	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.140	A1	2903.39
Freon 29	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.141	A1	2903.39
Freon 30	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.142	A1	2903.39
Freon 31	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.143	A1	2903.39
Freon 32	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.144	A1	2903.39
Freon 33	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.145	A1	2903.39
Freon 34	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.146	A1	2903.39
Freon 35	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.147	A1	2903.39
Freon 36	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.148	A1	2903.39
Freon 37	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.149	A1	2903.39
Freon 38	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.150	A1	2903.39
Freon 39	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.151	A1	2903.39
Freon 40	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.152	A1	2903.39
Freon 41	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.153	A1	2903.39
Freon 42	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.154	A1	2903.39
Freon 43	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.155	A1	2903.39
Freon 44	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.156	A1	2903.39
Freon 45	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.157	A1	2903.39
Freon 46	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.158	A1	2903.39
Freon 47	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.159	A1	2903.39
Freon 48	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.160	A1	2903.39
Freon 49	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.161	A1	2903.39
Freon 50	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.162	A1	2903.39
Freon 51	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.163	A1	2903.39
Freon 52	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.164	A1	2903.39
Freon 53	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.165	A1	2903.39
Freon 54	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.166	A1	2903.39
Freon 55	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.167	A1	2903.39
Freon 56	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.168	A1	2903.39
Freon 57	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.169	A1	2903.39
Freon 58	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.170	A1	2903.39
Freon 59	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.171	A1	2903.39
Freon 60	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.172	A1	2903.39
Freon 61	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.173	A1	2903.39
Freon 62	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.174	A1	2903.39
Freon 63	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.175	A1	2903.39
Freon 64	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.176	A1	2903.39
Freon 65	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.177	A1	2903.39
Freon 66	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.178	A1	2903.39
Freon 67	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.179	A1	2903.39
Freon 68	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.180	A1	2903.39
Freon 69	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.181	A1	2903.39
Freon 70	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.182	A1	2903.39
Freon 71	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.183	A1	2903.39
Freon 72	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.184	A1	2903.39
Freon 73	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.185	A1	2903.39
Freon 74	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.186	A1	2903.39
Freon 75	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.187	A1	2903.39
Freon 76	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.188	A1	2903.39
Freon 77	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.189	A1	2903.39
Freon 78	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.190	A1	2903.39
Freon 79	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.191	A1	2903.39
Freon 80	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.192	A1	2903.39
Freon 81	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.193	A1	2903.39
Freon 82	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.194	A1	2903.39
Freon 83	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.195	A1	2903.39
Freon 84	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.196	A1	2903.39
Freon 85	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.197	A1	2903.39
Freon 86	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.198	A1	2903.39
Freon 87	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.199	A1	2903.39
Freon 88	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.200	A1	2903.39
Freon 89	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.201	A1	2903.39
Freon 90	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.202	A1	2903.39
Freon 91	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ ClF ₅	8.203	A1	2903.39
Freon 92	Dichlorodifluoroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂ F ₂	8.204	A1	2903.39
Freon 93	Trichlorofluoroethane	C ₂ HClF ₃	8.205	A1	2903.39
Freon 94	Tetrafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₄	8.206	A1	2903.39
Freon 95	Pentafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₅	8.207	A1	2903.39
Freon 96	Hexafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.208	A1	2903.39
Freon 97	Heptafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.209	A1	2903.39
Freon 98	Octafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.210	A1	2903.39
Freon 99	Nonafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.211	A1	2903.39
Freon 100	Decafluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	8.212	A1	2903.39

Smuggling Schemes

- Front Door Smuggling
- Mislabeling as non-ODS
- Mislabeling as used, recovered, reclaimed or recycled ODS
- Concealment & double layering of ODS
- Diverting ODS from transitional recovery or ODS produced for export-free trade zone
- Declared as equipment



Protect the Ozone Layer :
Stop the Smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances.
United Nations Environment Programme - OzonAction

The Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Ozone Protection Award for Customs and Enforcement Officers aims to provide incentive and recognition to customs and enforcement officers and their respective organisations for successfully preventing illegal / unwanted trade of substances, equipment or products relevant for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and promotes national customs services and ozone units.

Customs and enforcement officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, European Union, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan received the Ozone Protection Award 2016 (4th edition) of the UN Environment Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia (ECA network) during the ECA customs cooperation meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 24-25 May 2016.

In the period from May 2014 to April 2016, the award winners reported 258 seizures of 9,947 pieces of equipment and 10,201 refrigerant cylinders / cans containing more than 70 tonnes of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), mixtures, products and equipment. In addition, informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) consultations before the issuance of trade licenses avoided 16 unwanted / illegal shipments of more than 174 tonnes of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures. Ukraine also estimates that about 50,000 split AC systems had illegally entered the country over past years, which were declared as HFC-134a equipment but actually contained HCFC-22.



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