

## Media Release

4 June 2010

### Fire protection industry urged to reduce halon use as phase out gathers momentum

*THE Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has consulted with FPA Australia regarding the need for the fire protection industry to start preparing for the reduction of Halon use.*

The message was prompted following key decisions made by the Montreal Protocol in November 2009 to accelerate the phase out of ozone depleting gases.

FPA Australia Chief Executive Officer, Mr Scott Williams, urges members affected to begin planning and implementing alternatives as a matter of urgency following key initiatives mapped out during a Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

“The Association is playing a leadership role and as an industry we have a responsibility to seriously look at substitute methods when it comes to the use of halon. We need to prepare for reduced access to halon and take all actions necessary to reduce our reliance moving forward.”

“We must acknowledge the valuable contribution and emphasise the role of the Commonwealth Government in coordinating and driving the implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

One of the key messages to come out of the meeting was the continued support by all parties for the implementation of mandatory dates by when halon alternatives will be used in previously agreed applications for newly designed aircraft.

The currently agreed phase-out timetable is:

- 1 – 2011 timeframe for the replacement of halon in lavatories, hand held extinguishers, engines, and auxiliary power units in newly designed aircraft
- 2 – 2011 timeframe for the replacement of halons in lavatories in new production aircraft
- 3 – 2014 timeframe for the replacement of halons in hand held extinguishers for new production aircraft

There is wide support to encourage countries to remove barriers on the import and export of

recycled halon so as to encourage the free movement of recycled halons between countries.

The decision also encourages countries to remove barriers on the import and export of recycled halons so as to encourage the free movement of recycled halons between countries.

Australia has established a significant stockpile of halon to meet our anticipated needs up to 2030 through the National Halon Bank in Melbourne.

“Industry cooperation has been a key feature of Australia’s successful implantation of the Protocol,” Williams said.

Applications for the import of used halon for re-use in Australia will continue to be prohibited as the existing stocks are sufficient to meet our long term essential use requirements.

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For more information visit [www.fpa.com.au](http://www.fpa.com.au) or contact Carlos Santin, Executive Officer – Ozone Protection, Ph: 1300 731 922, E: [carlossantin@fpa.com.au](mailto:carlossantin@fpa.com.au)

***The Fire Protection Association Australia is the country's peak body for fire safety, providing information, services and training to the fire protection industry and broader community. For more information, please see [www.fpa.com.au](http://www.fpa.com.au) or contact FPA Australia – (03) 9890 1544.***