



# Changing State of Refrigerants – Digest 2014-8

**The EPA is considering the removal of SNAP approval for selected HFC Refrigerants.**

## What is SNAP?

The Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program is EPA's program to evaluate and regulate substitutes for the ozone-depleting chemicals that are being phased out under the Clean Air Act. In essence it determines if a product is approved for use in a specific application.

## What is the Proposal?

Although HFC's are non-ozone depleting chemicals, with no scheduled phase out date, new studies have determined that they have High Global Warming Potential (High-GWP). As a consequence, they are considering a removal of SNAP approval, which would curtail the installed base for these products.

**R134A:** Internationally there are already regulations in place to phase out the use of R134a in automotive air conditioning and aerosol applications. The Proposed EPA action would have the follow effect:

**Aerosol Propellants:** R134a would be unacceptable starting January 2016.

- Some medical and technical applications would be except

**Stand Alone Refrigeration and Vending Machines:** R134a would be unacceptable starting January 2016.

**Automotive:** R134a would unacceptable starting with Model year 2021

**R404A/R507A:** Both products are now considered to have the Highest-GWP of any commercially available HFC refrigerant blend. The Proposed EPA action would have the follow effect:

**Stand Alone Refrigeration and Vending Machines:** R404A and R507A would be unacceptable starting January 2016, in new and retrofit retail food refrigeration (including direct and secondary loop systems), stand alone cases and vending machines.

**Other Refrigerants:** There are a number of other less popular refrigerants that would also be regulated by this change:

R407B, R421B, R422A,C D, R428A and R434A: will be unacceptable in new systems starting 2016.

R414B, R416A: Will be unacceptable in Automotive in 2017.

For more info go to <http://www.rsd.net/refrigerantsuite/index.php> or call 800-245-8007 ex 00405