NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: SWEDEN

2. Agency responsible: The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:

4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):
   Stationary and mobile refrigerating and heat pump systems containing CFC, HCFC and HFC refrigerants.

5. Title: Order Amending the Refrigerants Order

6. Description of content: It is proposed that the existing Refrigerants Order, which, inter alia, sets out handling requirements, requirements concerning competence and permits to be issued by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and equipment requirements for stationary refrigerating and heat pump systems containing CFCs and HCFCs and in certain respects also mobile refrigerating systems containing CFCs and HCFCs, should be amended to broaden its scope. The amendments to the Order include as follows:

   HFCs in refrigerating and heat pump systems are included.

   Higher equipment requirements for mobile systems containing CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs (compulsory refrigerant receivers, >50 kg.; stop valves and safety valves, >50 kg.).

   Under the present Refrigerants Order, the Environmental Protection Agency issues certificates of competence and permits for installation and service firms wishing to carry out work on stationary refrigerating and heat pump systems. It is now proposed that this system, while retaining largely similar requirements, should be transferred to an accreditation body. At the same time, competence requirements will be extended to cover the servicing and inspection of mobile systems.

   Compulsory requirements of competence for personnel operating large stationary systems are also proposed.
7. Objective and rationale: The main purpose of the proposed amendments to the Refrigerants Order is to reduce the use and the emissions of refrigerants with an ozone-depleting and/or greenhouse effect.

HFCs are beginning to be introduced as possible alternatives to CFCs and HCFCs. The competence that has been established in Sweden concerning the handling of CFCs and HCFCs, is considered to be of great value, since substantial reductions in refrigerant leakage have been achieved. As HFCs have environmental effects, too, it is deemed important that the same competence should be applied in the handling of these compounds.

Leakage of refrigerants from mobile systems is judged to be on a significant scale, which is why more stringent requirements are proposed for this category.


   Ordinance on CFCs and Halons etc. (SFS 1988:716 as amended in SFS 1991:1534) TBT/Notif.87.101, 89.41 and 91.87.

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force:

   Date of adoption: May 1992
   Entry into force: 1 July 1992

10. Final date for comments: 6 April 1992

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: