

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO: 2012/36

**Additional Synthetic Greenhouse Gas added to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* and the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958***

Under the Australian Government's new Clean Energy Future Plan, Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (SGG) listed under the Kyoto Protocol will have an equivalent carbon price applied through the existing Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management legislation. SGG’s include hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons (excluding gases produced from aluminium smelting) and sulfur hexafluoride, and any equipment or products which contain these gases -.

*Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (PI Regulations) and the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* (PE Regulations) currently prohibit the import and export of certain SGGs and ODSs (Ozone Depleting Substances), unless the importer/exporter has a valid licence issued by the Department of the Environment (DoE). The prohibition relates to substances listed in Schedule 10 of the PI Regulations and Schedule 15 of the PE Regulations.

From 1 July 2012, a licence will be required for any imports of bulk SF6 gas and air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment containing sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), in line with existing mandatory clearance requirements currently applied to ODS in the PI and PE Regulations. SF6 is a new substance added to the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. In addition, the existing Pre-Charged Equipment Licence will be changed to refer to either ODS Equipment or SGG Equipment Licences.

Sulfur Hexafluoride or SF6 is an SGG that has been identified as having a high global warming potential and is listed in the Kyoto Protocol.

SF6 is found in a number of other different commodities, including some fire extinguishers, certain aerosol products and as an insulating gas in the electricity supply industry. These goods are also captured under the licensing arrangements. However, no mandatory border clearance measures will be applied on 1 July 2012, pending further identification and assessment of the types of products likely to be captured under the new control.

To assist in identifying the volume and breadth of imported fire and electricity equipment and aerosols using SF6, an information only Community Protection question will be required to be answered upon lodgement. The answer to this question will not impede the clearance of the goods. Information gained from the results of the question will assist Customs and Border Protection and DoE to capture more detailed data on SGG and ODS goods.

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**Licensing Requirements**

DoE is responsible for issuing the appropriate licences for all Synthetic Greenhouse Gases and Ozone Depleting Substances. Enquiries regarding licences should be directed to the Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team, on Phone: +61 2 6274 1373 or +61 2 6274 1740 or by email [ozone@environment.gov.au.](mailto:ozone@environment.gov.au) You can also find further information on the DoE website at [www.environment.gov.au.](http://www.environment.gov.au/)

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