# DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE

**No. 2017/39**

# New low volume import exemptions for equipment containing synthetic greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances

There are now separate low volume import exemptions for equipment containing synthetic greenhouse gases (SGGs) and ozone depleting substances (ODSs).

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 (OPSGGM Act) prohibits the import and export of equipment containing SGGs and ODSs unless the importer holds a valid equipment licence issued by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) or qualifies for a low volume import exemption. A list of controlled SGGs and ODSs can be found in Schedule 1 of the OPSGGM Act, Schedule 10 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and Schedule 15 of the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958.

## SGG pre-charged equipment – low volume import exemption

From 1 August 2017, there is a new exemption for low volume import of equipment charged with the SGGs, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). The new threshold allows for the import of up to 25kg of SGGs in total contained in equipment in a calendar year. There is no limit on the number of pieces of equipment in a consignment or on the number of shipments. An equipment licence will be required from the first import that exceeds the 25kg threshold. From 1 January 2018, the SGG low volume import exemption will also apply to equipment charged with nitrogen trifluoride (NF3).

## HCFCs pre-charged equipment – ODS low volume import exemption

The ODS low volume import exemption threshold is as follows:

* there are no more than five units of equipment in a single consignment;
* there is less than 10kg in total of HCFC in the equipment; and
* the importer has not had an import of ODS equipment in the past two years.

From 1 January 2018, the import of HCFC pre-charged refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) equipment under the ODS low volume exemption is prohibited unless importing replacement parts for existing HCFC RAC equipment.

## HCFC pre-charged equipment – personal and household goods exemption

From 1 January 2020, the ODS low volume exemption will cease and importers will only be able to import equipment charged with HCFCs if:

* they meet the requirements for the personal and household goods exemption:

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* + Importers must have owned the equipment for 12 months before the import and it is wholly or principally for private or domestic use.

Or,

* they have been granted an equipment licence to import for one of the following circumstances:
  + the equipment is essential for use in medical, veterinary, defence, industrial safety or public safety activities; or
  + no practical alternative exists for the equipment and the importation is essential for replacement parts for existing equipment.

## Licensing requirements

The Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) is responsible for issuing the licences for the import and export of SGGs and ODSs and equipment containing those gases. A licence is required unless the activity meets the criteria for an exemption. Enquiries should be directed to the Ozone and Synthetic Gas Team, on Phone: +61 2 6274 1373 or email at [ozone@environment.gov.au](mailto:ozone@environment.gov.au). Further information is available on the DoEE website at [www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone](http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone).

[signed] David Coyles

Acting Assistant Secretary Trade and Customs Branch

20 December 2017