

Attachment 1

Follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 5 October 2009

(1) To advise the plan and actions being contemplated by the Administration to recycle chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22) upon disposal of air-conditioners containing such chemical.

We encourage recycling and re-use of the spent HCFC-22 to prevent release of these chemicals to the atmosphere. We have consulted with the trade and are finalizing a code of good practice to help the trade to recover HCFC-22 from the existing air-conditioners. We would also prepare a leaflet to help increase the public's awareness on this matter.

We are also examining the feasibility of introducing a mandatory producer responsibility scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment under the Product Eco-Responsibility Ordinance. Subject to public consultation later this year, we will consider whether proposed scheme would cover air conditioners. Due consideration will also be given to handle HCFC-22 recovered from air conditioners collected under the scheme in an environmentally sound manner.

(2) To explain the rationale for not extending the banning control to include product in the course of transshipment or are imported solely for export. To also advise the major destinations of transshipment/re-export over the past years.

Under the Montreal Protocol, developing countries will not be required to start phasing out HCFC until 2015 and complete the phase-out programme by 2030. It is, therefore, fully acceptable for them to import HCFC air-conditioners. As for some developed parties, depending on their own HCFC air-conditioner banning schedules and the progress of their legislation amendments, some of them, such as USA and Australia, are still allowing the import of these air-conditioners with conditions.

According to import and export statistics, about 1.3 million units of air-conditioner were transshipped or imported for export through Hong Kong per year over the past three years. About 57%, 23% , 6% and 6% of the total was delivered to EU, USA, Japan, and other developed places (e.g., Canada), respectively. The rest were delivered to developing places including Mainland China, South Africa and Brazil, etc.