CONSUMER FAST FACTS

- **Hydrocarbon refrigerants are prohibited at the Federal and State level**
- **Hydrocarbon refrigerants are unsafe in current car A/C systems**
- **Hydrocarbon refrigerants can result in long-term car A/C system damage**
- **Consumers can avoid using hydrocarbons in car A/C systems by visiting professional A/C service and repair shops**

For more information about motor vehicle air conditioners and the environment, contact EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline at 800 296-1996 or visit our Web site at **http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/refrigerants/lists/mvacs.html**

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EPA nhtsa

CONSUMER WARNING

Dangers of Hydrocarbon A/C Refrigerants in Your Vehicle

CONSUMER WARNING

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warn consumers about false marketing claims that promote the use of flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants in car air conditioning (A/C) systems.

Hydrocarbon Refrigerants are Prohibited at the Federal and State Level

Federal and state authorities have banned the use of hydrocarbons in vehicle air conditioning systems. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prohibits the use of certain hydrocarbons in retrofitted vehicle A/C systems. In addition, **nineteen states and the District of Columbia (DC) have banned the use of hydrocarbons in car A/C systems** — Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Hydrocarbon Refrigerants are Unsafe in Current Vehicle A/C Systems

The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) found currently available hydrocarbon blends are unsafe for use in vehicle A/C systems and requested the discontinuation of their marketing and sale. **Hydrocarbons are flammable and current vehicle A/C systems are not designed to prevent hazardous conditions.** NHTSA found that front-end collisions can produce a significant leak of the A/C refrigerants; a hot wire, an electric spark, an open flame or a very hot surface could readily ignite flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants leaks from damaged condensers in vehicle A/C systems.

In the future, it is possible for vehicle and equipment manufacturers to develop new systems specifically designed to accept flammable refrigerants. **Every vehicle has a manufacturer's label indicating the recommended refrigerants that provide safe and effective A/C system operation. Vehicle owners should use only the recommended refrigerants.**

Hydrocarbon Refrigerants Can Result in Long-Term Vehicle A/C System Damage

Hydrocarbon refrigerants are marketed as low-cost, drop-in replacements, but consumers may face additional repair costs from continued use of hydrocarbon refrigerants. **Current vehicle A/C systems have been designed to use either CFC-12 (most pre-1994 vehicles) or HFC-134a.** Hydrocarbon-based refrigerants have not been shown to be compatible with the hoses and oils designed for other refrigerants. This can result in the breakdown of components in the A/C system and consequently, breakdown of the A/C system itself.

Recommendation for Vehicle A/C Service and Maintenance

Consumers can avoid using hydrocarbons in vehicle A/C systems by visiting professional A/C service and repair shops. Certified technicians and use of certified equipment help ensure proper service.

For more information go to http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/refrigerants/lists/mvacs.html