



**The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Submission in response to EEB Consultation Paper on
the Proposal to Regulate and Phase Down Hydrofluorocarbons for
Implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**

September 9, 2023

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is supportive of the proposal to regulate and phase down the import and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in Hong Kong. Currently Industrial Processes and Product Use constitutes about 5% of the greenhouse gas emission in Hong Kong. Some of the HFCs are greenhouse gases with very high global warming potential (GWP). Hong Kong as a developed city must step up measures commensurate with that of the other developed economies in phasing out the use of HFCs that are powerful greenhouse gases. The proposal from government could also support achievement of Hong Kong's carbon neutrality target.

Please refer to our responses to individual questions in the Consultation Document -

Q. 1	Do you agree with the proposed approach on how the import quota shall be allocated?
Response	Yes. The proposed approach could cater for the need of both incumbent importers and new importers.

Q. 2	Do you agree with implementation of the proposed import ban on HFC-23 by 2025 earliest?
Response	Yes. The usage of HFC-23 in Hong Kong is small. The relevant local research institutes would be provided with an exempted quantity from the import ban.

Q. 3	Do you agree with the proposed approach on how the newly imported or manufactured air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment and fire suppression system shall be managed?
Response	Yes. The requirement should be effectively implemented to new equipment as soon as practicable, while the industry is well aware of this upcoming requirement and would start minimizing the import of HFC contained equipment.

Q. 4	Do you agree with the proposed GWP limit and the effective dates i.e. from 2026 for the ten types of equipment?
Response	Yes. It should allow sufficient time for the industry to clear their existing stock of the affected equipment.



Q. 5	Do you agree with the proposed approach on how used product and equipment shall be managed?
Response	Yes. It could minimize unnecessary social impact.

Q. 6	Do you agree with the proposed on-product labelling requirement particularly the alert that the HFC product would be banned from sale / supply with effect from 2026?
Response	Yes. An on-product labelling requirement could enable customers to make informed purchase decision and ease the inspection by the Authority. In addition, public education is essential, as GWP is a terminology in the sustainability sector and may not be well understood by general public.

Q. 7	Do you agree with introducing transitional PRS on air conditioner of private car using scheduled HFC refrigerant before the commencement date of the product restriction?
Response	A transitional PRS on the equipment using scheduled HFC refrigerant could be introduced before the commencement date of the product restriction to avoid Hong Kong becoming a dumping site of outdated equipment. However, this transitional PRS should not only cover air conditioner of private car, but also other relevant equipment as far as practicable.

Q. 8	Do you agree with the proposal to mandate recovery and prohibit intentional venting of refrigerant from air conditioning and refrigeration equipment?
Response	Yes. It could directly minimize further climate impact from venting of powerful greenhouse gas and provide stock for maintaining the operation of existing equipment.

Q. 9	Do you agree with the proposal that equipment over 50 kg should be registered while those containing less than 50 kg refrigerant shall not be subject to the new mandatory refrigerant recovery requirement?
Response	We agree a suitable threshold should be set, so that the mandatory refrigerant recovery requirement could be cost effectively implemented for sizable equipment, resulting in meaningful climate benefits. However, we are not in the position to assess if 50 kg is the optimal threshold. We expect relevant industry practitioners would contribute their views.

Q. 10	Do you agree with the proposed registration requirement on refrigerant handling contractor?
Response	Yes. It is a necessary measure to implement the mandatory refrigerant recovery requirement.



Q. 11	Do you agree with the proposed training and certification requirement on refrigerant handling technician?
Response	Yes. Trained and certified technicians are required to reliably and competently implement the mandatory requirements.

Q. 12	Do you agree with introducing mandatory producer responsibility scheme to facilitate development of refrigerant recovery and reclamation practice for supporting the HFC phase-down?
Response	Yes. It could provide the funding source for establishing and operating the future refrigerant recovery and reclamation services.

Q. 13	What other options should be considered for promoting refrigerant recovery and reclamation and why?
Response	<p>We would like to suggest the following additional options –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposed small air conditioners and refrigerators are now collected and centrally processed by WEEE.PARK. The government should make sure the controlled refrigerants in these disposed appliances are also recovered and not intentionally vented. • The Consultation Document does not propose any mandatory recovery requirement of fire suppressants that are powerful greenhouse gases, and no reason is provided. The government should consult the relevant industry and consider if similar measures could be imposed on large fire-fighting systems. • The Consultation Document does not provide a HFCs phase out schedule after 2036. Given Hong Kong aims at carbon neutrality by 2050, the government should inform the public of the future potential measures of handling the residual 15% HFCs emission. • Currently the government and power companies offer incentives for building energy efficiency improvement works and purchase of energy efficient appliances. Extension of their scope to cover use of low GWP alternatives should be considered to expedite the HFCs phaseout.