### Designated area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date 1 Type</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong County, Bailey County, Briscoe County, Carson County, Castro County, Childress County, Cochran County, Collingsworth County, Crosby County, Dallam County, Deaf Smith County, Dickens County, Donley County, Floyd County, Garza County, Gray County, Hale County, Hall County, Hansford County, Hartley County, Hemphill County, Hockley County, Hutchinson County, King County, Lamb County, Lipscomb County, Lubbock County, Lynn County, Moore County, Motley County, Ochiltree County, Oldham County, Parmer County, Potter County, Randall County, Roberts County, Sherman County, Swisher County, Terry County, Wheeler County, Yoakum County</td>
<td>* * * * * *</td>
<td>Unclassifiable/Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aransas County, Bee County, Brooks County, Calhoun County, De Witt County, Duval County, Goliad County, Gonzales County, Jackson County, Jim Wells County, Kenedy County, Kleberg County, Lavaca County, Live Oak County, McMullen County, Refugio County, San Patricio County</td>
<td>AEQC 214 Corpus Christi-Victoria Intrastate (Remainder of)</td>
<td>Unclassifiable/Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin County, Colorado County, Matagorda County, Walker County, Wharton County</td>
<td>AEQC 216 Metro Houston-Galveston Intrastate (Remainder of)</td>
<td>Unclassifiable/Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atascosa County, Bandera County, Comal County, Dimmit County, Edwards County, Frio County, Gillespie County, Guadalupe County, Karnes County, Kendall County, Kerr County, Kinney County, La Salle County, Maverick County, Medina County, Real County, Uvalde County, Val Verde County, Wilson County, Zavala County</td>
<td>AEQC 217 Metro San Antonio Intrastate (Remainder of)</td>
<td>Unclassifiable/Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews County, Borden County, Coke County, Concho County, Crane County, Crockett County, Dawson County, Gaines County, Glasscock County, Howard County, Irion County, Kimble County, Loving County, Martin County, Mason County, McCulloch County, Menard County, Midland County, Pecos County, Reagan County, Reeves County, Schleicher County, Sterling County, Sutton County, Terrell County, Tom Green County, Upton County, Ward County, Winkler County</td>
<td>AEQC 218 Midland-Odessa-San Angelo Intrastate (Remainder of)</td>
<td>Unclassifiable/Attainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* This date is November 15, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

**ACTION:** Notice of acceptability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice expands the list of acceptable substitutes for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Information relevant to this notice is contained in Air Docket A--91--
Section 612 Program

A. Statutory Requirements

Section 612 of the Clean Air Act authorizes EPA to develop a program for evaluating alternatives to ozone-depleting substances. EPA refers to this program as the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. The major provisions of section 612 are:

- Rulemaking—Section 612(c) requires EPA to promulgate rules making it unlawful to replace any class I (chlorofluorocarbon, halon, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, methyl bromide, and hydrobromofluorocarbon) or class II (hydrochlorofluorocarbon) substance with any substitute that the Administrator determines may present adverse effects to human health or the environment where the Administrator has identified an alternative that (1) reduces the overall risk to human health and the environment, and (2) is currently or potentially available.
- Listing of Unacceptable/Acceptable Substitutes—Section 612(c) also requires EPA to publish a list of the substances unacceptable for specific uses. EPA must publish a corresponding list of acceptable alternatives for specific uses.
- Petition Process—Section 612(d) grants the right to any person to petition EPA to remove a substance from either the list of prohibited or acceptable substitutes. Updates to these lists are published as separate notices of rulemaking in the Federal Register.

B. Regulatory History

On March 18, 1994, EPA published the Final Rulemaking (FRM) (59 FR 13044) which described the process for administering the SNAP program and issued EPA’s first acceptability lists for substitutes in the major industrial use sectors. These sectors include: refrigeration and air conditioning; foam blowing; solvent cleaning; fire suppression and explosion protection; sterilants; aerosols; adhesives, coatings and inks; and tobacco expansion. These sectors compose the principal industrial sectors that historically consumed the largest volumes of ozone-depleting compounds.

As described in the final rule for the SNAP program (59 FR 13044), EPA does not believe that rulemaking procedures are required to list alternatives as acceptable with no limitations. Such listings do not impose any sanction, nor do they remove any prior license to use a substance. Consequently, by this notice EPA is adding substances to the list of acceptable alternatives without first requesting comment on new listings.

EPA does, however, believe that Notice-and-Comment rulemaking is required to place any substance on the list of prohibited substitutes, to list a substance as acceptable only under certain conditions, to list substances as acceptable only for certain uses, or to remove a substance from either the list of prohibited or acceptable substitutes. Updates to these lists are published as separate notices of rulemaking in the Federal Register.

The Agency defines a “substitute” as any chemical, product substitute, or alternative manufacturing process, whether existing or new, that could replace a class I or class II substance. Anyone who produces a substitute must provide the Agency with health and safety studies on the substitute at least 90 days before introducing it into interstate commerce for significant new use as an alternative. This requirement applies to substitute manufacturers, but may include importers, formulators or end-users, when they are responsible for introducing a substitute into commerce.


II. Listing of Acceptable Substitutes

This section presents EPA’s most recent acceptable listing decisions for substitutes for class I and class II substances in the following industrial sectors: refrigeration and air conditioning, and foam blowing. In this Notice, EPA has split the refrigeration and air conditioning sector into two parts: substitutes for class I substances and substitutes for class II substances. For copies of the full list, contact the EPA Stratospheric Protection Hotline at (800) 296-1996.

Parts A and B below present a detailed discussion of the substitute listing determinations by major use sector. Tables summarizing today’s listing decisions are in Appendix A. The comments contained in Appendix A provide additional information on a substitute, but for listings of acceptable substitutes, they are not legally binding under section 612 of the Clean Air Act. Thus, adherence to recommendations in the comments is not mandatory for use as a substitute. In addition, the comments should not be considered comprehensive with respect to other legal obligations pertaining to the use of the substitute. However, EPA encourages users of acceptable substitutes to apply all comments to their use of these substitutes. In many instances, the comments simply allude to sound operating practices that have
already been identified in existing industry and/or building-code standards. Thus, many of the comments, if adopted, would not require significant changes in existing operating practices for the affected industry.

### A. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning: Class I

1. **Clarification on the Use of Fittings With Manifold Gauges**

   EPA has issued several rules imposing the condition that motor vehicle refrigerants be used with unique fittings. Specifically, regulations require that:

   - The fittings must be used on all containers of the refrigerant, on can taps, on recovery, recycling, and charging equipment, and on all air conditioning system service ports.
   - A refrigerant may only be used with the fittings and can taps specifically intended for that refrigerant and designed by the manufacturer of the refrigerant.
   - Using a refrigerant with a fitting designed by anyone else, even if it is different from fittings used with other refrigerants, is a violation of this use condition.

   One interpretation of this requirement is that manifold gauge sets must be dedicated to a single refrigerant. They are frequently used as part of “recovery, recycling, and recharging equipment” and would, therefore, have to use a permanently attached set of fittings unique to one refrigerant. Furthermore, adapters to change the manifold gauges from one refrigerant to another would be illegal. EPA believes this interpretation is overly restrictive and costly to service shops.

   Manifold gauges allow technicians to diagnose system problems and to charge, recover, and/or recycle refrigerant. A standard fitting has traditionally been used at the end of the hoses attached to the manifold gauges (designated “end 1” for purposes of this discussion). In contrast, the SNAP use conditions require the use of unique fittings at the other ends of the hoses that attach to vehicle air conditioning systems and recovery or recycling equipment (designated as “end 2”). This use condition still applies; once a unique fitting is attached to end 2, it may not be removed. However, it is legal to continue to use a standard fitting at end 1, changing hoses with unique fittings on end 2 to allow the use of the manifold gauges with multiple refrigerants.

   An example will clarify the application of these requirements. Assume a technician has been working on a car containing refrigerant X. The car and recovery or recycling equipment have permanently attached fittings unique to X. End 2 of the manifold gauge hoses also have permanently attached matching fittings unique to X. Before working on a car containing refrigerant Y, the technician must:
   1. Recover refrigerant remaining in the hoses to the vacuum specified in the appropriate EPA standard for recovery and/or recycling,
   2. Disconnect the hoses from the vehicle and the recovery or recycling equipment,
   3. Disconnect the hoses from the manifold gauges, and
   4. Using standard fittings, attach end 1 of the new hoses to the manifold gauges (these hoses must have permanently attached fittings at end 2 that are unique to refrigerant Y), and
   5. Attach end 2 of the new hoses to the vehicle containing refrigerant Y and to recovery or recycling equipment that meet the applicable standards for refrigerant Y.

   Following this procedure will prevent the environment, the vehicle owner, and the shop from being exposed to refrigerants and lubricants that will not be mixed within the hoses, and shops will not have to purchase multiple manifold gauges.

2. **Acceptable Substitutes**

   Note that EPA acceptability does not mean that a given substitute will work in a specific type of equipment within an end-use. Engineering expertise must be used to determine the appropriate use of these and any other substitutes. In addition, although some alternatives are listed for multiple refrigerants, they may not be appropriate for use in all equipment or under all conditions.

   a. **MT-31**

   MT-31, the composition of which has been claimed as confidential business information, is acceptable as a substitute for CFC-12 in the following retrofitted and new systems:

   - Centrifugal and Reciprocating Chillers.
   - Industrial Process Refrigeration.
   - Cold Storage Warehouses.
   - Refrigerated Transport.
   - Retail Food Refrigeration.
   - Vending Machines.
   - Water Coolers.
   - Commercial Ice Machines.
   - Household Refrigerators.
   - Household Freezers.
   - Residential Dehumidifiers.
   - Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners (both automotive and non-automotive).

   Because HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b contribute to ozone depletion, they will be phased out of production. Therefore, these blends will be used primarily as retrofit refrigerants. However, these blends are also acceptable for use in new systems. Regulations regarding recycling and reclamation issued under section 608 of the Clean Air Act apply to these blends. HCFC-142b has one of the highest ODPs among the HCFCs. The GWPs of HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b are 1700 and 2000, respectively, which are somewhat high. However, this concern is mitigated by the scheduled phaseout of these refrigerants. Although HCFC-142b and isobutane are flammable, these blends are not. In addition, testing of this blend has shown that it does not become flammable after leaks. All components are low in toxicity.

   On October 16, 1996, (61 FR 54029), EPA promulgated a final rule that prospectively applied certain conditions on the use of any refrigerant used as a substitute for CFC-12 in motor vehicle air conditioning systems. That rule provided that EPA would list new refrigerants in future Notices. This Notice marks the first such determination. Therefore, the use of GHG-X5 as a CFC-12 substitute in motor vehicle air conditioning systems is governed by the standard conditions that have been imposed on previous...
refrigerants, including the use of unique fittings designed by the refrigerant manufacturer, the application of a detailed label, the removal of the original refrigerant prior to charging with GHG-X5, and the installation of a high-pressure compressor cutoff switch on systems equipped with pressure relief devices. In addition, because GHG-X5 contains HCFC-22, barrier hoses must be used with this refrigerant. The October 16, 1996 rule gives full details on these use conditions, and it takes precedence in any conflict with this Notice. The fittings to be used with GHG-X5 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fitting type</th>
<th>Diameter (inches)</th>
<th>Thread pitch (threads/ inch)</th>
<th>Thread direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-side service port</td>
<td>.5625 (9/16)</td>
<td>18 Left.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-side service port</td>
<td>.5 (8/16)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large (&gt;20 lb. containers)</td>
<td>.5625 (9/16)</td>
<td>18 Left.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: There is no fitting for small cans; until such time as a fitting is developed and listed in a future notice, it remains illegal to distribute this product in small cans. The labels will have an orange background and black text.

c. HCFC-142b/HCFC-22 (ICOR)

This blend, which consists of HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b, is acceptable as a substitute for CFC-12 in the following retrofitted and new systems:

- Centrifugal and Reciprocating Chillers.
- Industrial Process Refrigeration.
- Cold Storage Warehouses.
- Refrigerated Transport.
- Retail Food Refrigeration.
- Vending Machines.
- Water Coolers.
- Commercial Ice Machines.
- Household Refrigerators.
- Household Freezers.
- Residential Dehumidifiers.

Because HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b contribute to ozone depletion, they will be phased out of production. Therefore, this blend will be used primarily as a retrofit refrigerant. However, it is also acceptable for use in new systems. Regulations regarding recycling and reclamation issued under section 608 of the Clean Air Act apply to this blend. HCFC-142b has one of the highest ODPs among the HCFCs. The GWPs of HCFC-22 and HCFC-142b are 1700 and 2000, respectively, which are somewhat high. However, these concerns are mitigated by the scheduled phaseout of these refrigerants. Although HCFC-142b is flammable, the blend’s worst-case formulation is not. After significant leakage, this blend may become weakly flammable. However, the worst-case fractionation will result in 100% HCFC-142b remaining in the system, which is similar to the result of a significant leak of R-406A, a refrigerant previously found acceptable. Therefore, this blend should be at least as safe to use as R-406A. Both components are low in toxicity.

B. Foam Blowing

1. Clarification on Overlap of Sec. 610 Non-essential Use Ban and SNAP in the Regulation of Integral Skin Foams

Section 610 of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to ban the sale and distribution of integral skin foam and many other products manufactured with HCFCs (with the exception of integral skin foam utilized to provide motor vehicle safety in accordance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards) as of January 1, 1994 (58 FR 69637; 12/30/93). HCFCs were banned from motor vehicle safety integral skin foam effective January 1, 1996. See 40 CFR Part 82, Subpart C for details on integral skin or other products where CFCs and/or HCFCs are prohibited under the Non-essential Products Ban.

In the initial SNAP listing of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes for integral skin, EPA listed a number of HCFCs and zero-ODP substitutes as acceptable (59 FR 13044; March 18, 1994). Users of substitutes listed under SNAP are, however, subject to all other environmental, health or safety regulations. Consequently, between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 1996, only the sale and distribution of integral skin foam used for motor vehicle safety could legally be manufactured with HCFCs. After January 1, 1996 all use of HCFCs was banned in integral skin foam.

Persons who violate Title VI of the Clean Air Act may be subject to civil and administrative penalties of up to $25,000 per day for each violation. Any person who knowingly violates Title VI may be subject to criminal penalties of imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of up to $10,000.

2. Acceptable Substitutes

Under section 612 of the Clean Air Act, EPA is authorized to review substitutes for class I (CFCs) and class II (HCFCs) chemicals. The following listing expands the list of acceptable substitutes for HCFCs in integral skin applications. a. Polyurethane Integral Skin Foam

   a. Polyurethane Integral Skin Foam
   (a) Saturated Light Hydrocarbons C3-C6

Saturated Light Hydrocarbons C3-C6 are acceptable substitutes for HCFCs in polyurethane integral skin foam. Hydrocarbons are more flammable than CFCs and HCFCs and use would likely require additional investment to assure safe handling, use and shipping. These hydrocarbons have zero global warming potential (GWP) but are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and must be controlled as such under Title I of the Clean Air Act. Relevant consumer product and other safety requirements necessary for use of hydrocarbon-blown integral skin foam would have to be met.

III. Additional Information

Contact the Stratospheric Protection Hotline at 1-800-296-1996, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

For more information on the Agency’s process for administering the SNAP program or criteria for evaluation of substitutes, refer to the SNAP final rulemaking published in the Federal Register on March 18, 1994 (59 FR 13044). Federal Register notices can be obtained from the Government Printing Office Order Desk (202) 783-5238; the citation is the date of publication. This notice may also be obtained on the World Wide Web at http://www.epa.gov/ozone/title6/snap/snap.html.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 82

Environmental Protection, Administrative Practice and Procedure, Air Pollution Control, Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements.


Mary D. Nichols,
Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

Note: The following Appendix will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.
Appendix A—Summary of Acceptable Decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End-use</th>
<th>Substitute</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foam Blowing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCFCs, Polyurethane Integral Skin</td>
<td>Saturated Light Hydrocarbons C3–C6</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>Additional investment is likely to be required to ensure safe handling, use and shipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration and Air Conditioning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFC–12 Motor Vehicle Air Conditioning, Automotive and Non-Automotive (Retrofitted and New).</td>
<td>MT–31</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>Only the composition submitted is acceptable; compositions with different percentages of the components require new submissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HCFC–22/HCFC–142b</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>Only the composition submitted is acceptable; compositions with different percentages of the components require new submissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GHG–X5</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>Only the composition submitted is acceptable; compositions with different percentages of the components require new submissions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[FR Doc. 97–14447 Filed 6–2–97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

General Services Administration

41 CFR Part 301–8

[FR Amdt. 66]
RIN 3090–AG41

Federal Travel Regulation; Reimbursement of Higher Actual Subsistence Expenses in Special or Unusual Circumstances

Agency: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

Action: Final rule.

Summary: This final rule amends the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) (41 CFR chapters 301–304) to allow an agency to authorize or approve travel up to 300 percent of the prescribed maximum per diem rate on an actual subsistence expense basis under certain special or unusual circumstances.

Dates: This final rule is effective May 1, 1997, and applies for travel performed on or after May 1, 1997.

For Further Information Contact: Jane Groat, Office of Governmentwide Policy (MTT), Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501–1538.

Supplementary Information: This final rule establishes a reimbursement rate not to exceed 300 percent of the prescribed maximum per diem rate for the actual and necessary expenses of official travel within CONUS. For travel in foreign and nonforeign areas, maximum rates are set by the Departments of State and Defense, respectively.

Further, this rule abolishes the requirement for the Administrator of General Services to establish, at the request of the head of an agency, a higher maximum daily rate for subsistence expenses not to exceed 300 percent of the prescribed maximum per diem rate for official travel to an area within the continental United States (CONUS) where special or unusual circumstances result in an extreme increase in subsistence costs for a temporary period.

The General Services Administration (GSA) has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993. This final rule is not required to be published in the Federal Register for notice and comment. Therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply. This rule also is exempt from Congressional review prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 801 since it relates solely to agency management and personnel.

List of Subjects in 41 CFR Part 301–8

Government employees, Travel, Travel allowances, Travel and transportation expenses.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 41 CFR part 301–8 is amended to read as follows:

Part 301–8—Reimbursement of Actual Subsistence Expenses

1. The authority citation for part 301–8 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5707.

§ 301–8.2 [Amended]

2. Section 301–8.2(b) is amended to remove the phrase “150 percent” where it appears and to replace it with the phrase “300 percent”, and to revise the fourth sentence to read, “If the travel is to a location where § 301–8.3(c) applies under special or unusual circumstances, the authorizing agency shall determine an appropriate limitation on the amount of reimbursement.”

§ 301–8.3 [Amended]

3. Section 301–8.3 is amended in paragraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1)(i) to remove the phrase “150 percent” where it appears and to replace it with the phrase “300 percent”; by removing paragraph (c); by redesignating paragraph (d) as (c); by amending newly redesignated paragraph (c) to remove the phrase “paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section” where it appears and to replace it with the phrase “paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section”.

§ 301–8.3 [Amended]

4. Section 301–8.3(a)(2) is revised to read as follows:

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(2) Travel outside CONUS. For travel outside CONUS, the maximum daily rate for subsistence expenses shall not