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Title: *National Refrigerant Recycling and Emissions Reduction Program* (OMB Control Number 2060-0256, EPA ICR Number 1626.08). This is a request to renew an existing approved collection that is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2003. Under OMB regulations, the Agency may continue to conduct or sponsor the collection of information while this submission is pending at OMB.

Abstract: EPA has developed regulations under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (the Act) establishing standards and requirements regarding the use and disposal of class I and class II ozone-depleting substances used as refrigerants during the service, maintenance, repair, or disposal of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. Section 608(c) of the Act states that effective July 1, 1992, it is unlawful for any person in the course of maintaining, servicing, repairing, or disposing of refrigeration or air-conditioning equipment to knowingly vent or otherwise knowingly release or dispose of any class I or class II substance used as a refrigerant in the

equipment in a manner which permits the substance to enter the environment.

During 1993, EPA promulgated regulations under section 608 of the Act for the recycling of ozone-depleting refrigerants recovered during the servicing and disposal of air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment. These regulations were published on May 14, 1993 (58 FR 28660) and codified in 40 CFR part 82, subpart F (82.150 *et seq.*).

The regulations require persons servicing refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment to observe certain service practices that reduce emissions of ozone depleting refrigerants. The regulations also establish certification programs for technicians, recycling and recovery equipment, and off-site refrigerant reclaimers. In addition, EPA requires that ozone depleting refrigerants contained "in bulk" in appliances be removed prior to disposal of the appliances and that all refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, except for small appliances and room air conditioners, be provided with a servicing aperture that facilitates recovery of the refrigerant. Moreover, the Agency requires that substantial refrigerant leaks in equipment be repaired when they are discovered. These regulations significantly reduce emissions of ozone depleting refrigerants, and therefore aid U.S. and global efforts to minimize damage to the ozone layer and the environment as a whole.

To facilitate compliance with and enforcement of section 608 requirements, EPA requires reporting and record keeping requirements of technicians; technician certification programs; equipment testing organizations; refrigerant wholesalers and purchasers; refrigerant reclaimers; refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment owners; and other establishments that perform refrigerant removal, service, or disposal. The record keeping requirements and periodic submission of reports, to EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Atmospheric Programs, occur on an annual, biannual, onetime, or occasional basis depending on the nature of the reporting entity and the length of time that the entity has been in service. Specific reporting and record keeping requirements were published in 58 FR 28660 and codified under 40 CFR part 82, subpart F (82.166). These reporting and recordkeeping requirements also allow EPA to evaluate the effectiveness of the refrigerant regulations, and help the Agency determine if we are meeting the obligations of the United States,

under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, to reduce use and emissions of ozone-depleting substances to the lowest achievable level.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15, and are identified on the form and/or instrument, if applicable.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average: 18 hours for the two EPA-approved refrigerant recovery/recycling equipment testing organizations; 3,375 hours for an estimated 2,250 service establishments that will change ownership or enter the market; 375 hours for an estimated 375 disposal establishments that change ownership or enter the market; 67,500 hours for the maintenance of copies of signed statements by an estimated 7,500 disposal establishments; 20 hours for certification of an estimated 4 refrigerant reclaimers that change ownership or enter the market; 275 hours for reclaimer reporting from an estimated 55 respondents; 40,000 hours for an estimated 5,000 refrigerant wholesalers to maintain records of refrigerant sales transactions; 150 hours for an estimated 5 technician certification programs applying for first-time approval; 1,552 hours for 97 technician certification programs to maintain records; 90,000 hours for an estimated 30,000 technicians acquiring certification for the first time and maintaining certification cards; 6,000 hours for an estimated 300,000 previously certified technicians to maintain their certification cards; 56 hours for an estimated 10 owners of industrial process refrigeration equipment (appliances) who request a 30-day extension to the 30-day leak repair requirement or the retrofit requirement; 1,360 hours for an estimated 310 owners of industrial process refrigeration and commercial and comfort cooling equipment (appliances) who maintain information on purged/destroyed refrigerant that they wish to exclude from their leak rate calculations, records on the calculation of the full charge using a range, or plans to retire or retrofit their appliances.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology