



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION

INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DU FROID

177, bd. Malesherbes – 75017 PARIS (France)

Tel.: 33 (0)1.42.27.32.35 - Fax: 33 (0)1.47.63.17.98

E-mail: iif-iir@iifiir.org - Web site: www.iifiir.org

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***Statement given by Didier Coulomb,
Director of the International Institute of Refrigeration***

Refrigeration (including air conditioning) is indispensable to life. It will continue to grow steadily in the future, with a strong growth expected in developing countries. However, refrigeration accounts for about 15% of global electricity use, and refrigerants (CFCs, HCFCs, HFCs) are potent greenhouse gases if released into the atmosphere.

IIR recommendations are:

- Coordination with the Montreal Protocol is necessary: HFCs, potent greenhouse gases, often replace HCFCs and CFCs, which are being progressively phased out within the framework of the Montreal Protocol.
- We need to pursue research and technological developments for new high efficiency equipment. However, it is advisable to favour low-GWP refrigerants, especially natural ones. Efficient solutions already exist or will soon be developed for most applications under various climatic conditions.
- Refrigerant containment in the operating equipment and refrigerant recovery must be improved. The lifespan of equipment is often over 20 years. Current high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants may be needed for existing equipment into the future.
- Long-term policy in each country and company is needed. Availability of sufficient and objective information is essential for making effective policy decisions in both developed and developing countries.

The mission of the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) is to provide you with this information.