



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Environment
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Government wishes to advise that in fulfilling its obligations under Council Regulation (EC) No. 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer, work that entails the handling of controlled substances will, in the near future, only be undertaken by qualified persons. The public's attention is drawn to the relevant legislation namely "Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006" which has been published today.

Once the legislation is in force, a person who undertakes relevant work without the corresponding qualification will commit an offence that is punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both a fine and imprisonment.

-The regulations allow for a transitional period for persons who undertook relevant work prior to the commencement of the legislation. These persons will be required to have obtained the necessary qualifications by 9 April 2007.

The Government's Department for the Environment together with the Environmental Agency are making preparations to deliver courses leading to the provision of some of the qualifications, and shall make a separate announcement to that effect.

At the present time, it is not envisaged that the qualification relating to the decommissioning of equipment for fire protection systems and fire extinguishers will be offered locally.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon J J Netto, has welcomed the introduction of these regulations, as they will ensure that the handling of controlled substances, will in future only be carried out in the proper manner by duly qualified personnel therefore reducing the risk of improper handling and the danger of further contamination.

Additional notes:

(i) Article 2 of the EU Regulation defines controlled substances as-

"controlled substances' means chlorofluorocarbons, other fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, methyl bromide, hydrobromofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, whether alone or in a mixture, and whether they are virgin, recovered, recycled or reclaimed. This definition shall not cover any controlled substance which is in a manufactured product other than a container used for the transportation or storage of that substance, or insignificant quantities of any controlled substance, originating from inadvertent or coincidental production during a manufacturing process, from unreacted feedstock, or from use as a processing agent which is present in chemical substances as trace impurities, or that is emitted during product manufacture or handling."

(ii) The Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2006 may soon be accessed free of charge at: <http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/> or through the Department of the Environment's website.