



JUN 05 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM  
No. 202, s. 2006

**RETRIEVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES IN EXISTING  
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WITH NON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES**


To: Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the celebration of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2006, all regional and division offices, schools with existing fire extinguishers should retrieve and replace their contents with non ozone-depleting substances. This is an issue that should be given priority attention in view of the deteriorating quality of air especially in urban places in Metro Manila which can be controlled and stopped through an immediate policy action.
2. It was proven by research that emissions of man-made chemicals such as CFCs, halons, methyl bromide and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS) are responsible for depletion of a protective segment of the upper atmosphere known as the ozone layer. Millions of ozone molecules are being destroyed every minute resulting in increased amounts of harmful ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface. When exposed to this radiation, people will have a significantly higher risk of contracting skin cancer, eye cataracts, and developing suppressed immune systems, reduces agricultural productivity, damages the marine food chain, and degrades materials such as plastics.
3. In view of this, the Government forged commitments with other member nations to preserve and protect the ozone layer and reduce the greenhouse gases through International Agreements known as Montreal Protocol and Kyoto Protocol. The Agreement was further strengthened through Republic Act 8749 known as The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and Republic Act 6969 - known as Toxic, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act, Executive Order 192, s. of 1987, DENR Notice to the Public in 1998, DENR Announcement to the Public in 1001, DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-08 and DILG Memorandum Circular Order 2001-045 all of which demand for the scheduled replacement of contents of existing substances being used in fire extinguishers, air conditioning units, refrigerators etc. and totally phasing out of ozone-depleting substances such as Chloroflourocarbons (CFCs), Halons, and the like (Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Halotrons (HCFC-blend with Freon).
4. However, in spite of so many issuances some government agencies failed to comply with RA 8749 and 6969 including the Department of Education. Most fire extinguishers found in DepED Central Office, regional and division offices and even schools still contain ozone-depleting substances and this is punishable by a Fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP10,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00) or an imprisonment from six (6) months to six (6) years or both fine and imprisonment.

5. In this regard, all DepED regional and division offices are directed to comply with the above-stated laws by conducting an inventory of their existing fire extinguishers and replacing their contents with non-ozone depleting substances into an Environment Friendly Zero Ozone Potential (ODP). All concerned may coordinate with Mr. Artemio A. Adasa, Jr., Chairman, Philippine Clean Air Foundation, Inc. (PCAF), the agency tasked to administer services needed to recover and replace ozone-depleting substances. PCAF can be reached at 34176-D Guernica St., Palanan, Makati City, tel. no. 551-94-67 or telefax 551-45-38.

6. Enclosed is a copy of the Announcement to the Public by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and House Resolution No. 971 for references.

7. Wide dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.

  
FE A. HIDALGO  
Undersecretary  
Officer-in-Charge

Encls.: As stated

Reference: None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Reformatted by: Sally - Ozone depleting  
June 1, 2006



FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2001



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100  
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29, (632) 929-62-52  
929-66-20 • 929-66-33 to 35  
929-70-41 to 43

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau announces that the recovery and substitution of CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFCs) and HALONS, identified as among the major ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) including CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher identified as a major producer of greenhouse gases will take effect on June 1, 2001. This is in compliance with the Philippine's commitment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer and contribute to global warming.

Meanwhile, the importation and consumption of CHLOROFLUOROCARBON (CFCs) for serving old equipment may be allowed until the year 2010.

The recovery of halon and carbon dioxide in commercial operation and substitution with environment-friendly and zero ozone-depleting potential (ODP) will be administered and led by the Philippine Clean Air Foundation, Inc. and its duly authorized affiliates.

Below is the recovery and substitution schedule as mandated by Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999:

### PHASE 1

Inventory of Recoverable Banned Substances April 10, 2001 - June 10, 2002

### PHASE 2

Substitution of Recovered Banned Substances July 10, 2001 - December 10, 2003


### PHASE 3

Total Phase-Out of Banned Substances January 10, 2008

The term *banned substances* being used in this announcement cover Halon and Carbon Dioxide found in fire extinguishers, suppressors, fire fighting paraphernalias, refrigerants and the like.

This Schedule has been presented to the importers/industries as early as 1993 including Republic Act 6969.

Failure to comply with the above provisions shall be construed as violation of Republic Act 8749.

  
HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ  
Secretary



Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 371

Introduced by Honorable Rene DM. Velarde, Leovigildo B. Banaag

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE MORE DECISIVE ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8749, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999."

WHEREAS, more than six years ago, the Congress of the Philippines enacted Republic Act (RA) No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, and on November 07, 2000, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as the lead implementing agency, adopted and promulgated Administrative Order No. 2000-81, Series of 2000, which embodies the rules and regulations implementing the said Act;

WHEREAS, in the 2002 National Air Quality Status Report, it was established that: "Despite the numerous interventions implemented and enforced by the government, together with non-government organizations (NGOs), private entities and peoples organizations (POs), air quality in the Philippines remains threatened, especially in key urban and industrialized centers;"

WHEREAS, the continuous emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as halons, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halotrons (HCFC 123 and others) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which constitute the greenhouse gases, is expected to widen the hole in the ozone layer