



IMO

E

Ref. T1/3.02
T5/1.03

MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.3
4 June 2008

DECREASING AVAILABILITY OF HALONS FOR MARINE USES

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-seventh session (31 March to 4 April 2008), and the Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-fourth session (7 to 16 May 2008) noted the outcome of the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which was held in September 2007 in Montreal.

2 The Committees noted that, in pursuance of *Decision XIX/16: Follow-up to the 2006 assessment report by the Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC)*, which was taken at the nineteenth meeting and is set out in the annex, the Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol (herewith called the Ozone Secretariat) was requested to write to the Secretariats of the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to draw their attention to the decreasing availability of halons for marine and aviation uses and the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in their respective sectors.

3 The attention of Member Governments is therefore drawn to the issue of the decreasing availability of halons for marine uses, the fact that HTOC reports that some countries may already be experiencing shortages affecting their industries, and that there are major regional imbalances in the worldwide distribution of halons.

4 It is therefore recommended that Member Governments bring the information in the above paragraphs to the attention of shipowners, ship operators, shipping companies and all other parties concerned and request that they take appropriate action to reduce their reliance on halons.

5 Notwithstanding the above request, operators of ships constructed before 1 October 1994, which may still have halon systems installed, should use such systems to extinguish a fire, if necessary, to ensure the continued safety of the ship. In addition, when an existing halon system is removed from a ship, the stored halons should be transferred to an approved halon reception facility (FP.1/Circ.35).

6 Member Governments are also requested to collect data on halons from the maritime sector, in particular to collect information on the number of ships equipped with halon systems (e.g., the total amount of halons installed for their merchant fleets), and to convey this information directly to the Ozone Secretariat¹.

¹ **Contact information:** Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol – The Ozone Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme, P.O. Box 30552-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.

ANNEX

DECISION XIX/16: FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2006 ASSESSMENT REPORT BY THE HALONS TECHNICAL OPTIONS COMMITTEE (HTOC)

The Meeting of the Parties decides:

Welcoming the 2006 assessment report of the Halons Technical Options Committee of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.

Welcoming also the continuing reduction in global halon use.

Noting the concern expressed by the Halons Technical Options Committee about the availability of certain halons around the world.

1. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to undertake a further study on projected regional imbalances in the availability of halon 1211, halon 1302 and halon 2402 and to investigate and propose mechanisms to better predict and mitigate such imbalances in the future;

2. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, when undertaking the study, to consult with the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund on the outcomes of its study on the operation of halon banks around the world and to use such information from that study as may be relevant to its own review;

3. To request the Ozone Secretariat to make available 2004, 2005 and 2006 halon consumption figures by type of halon the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel for its study;

4. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to submit its study in time to allow the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to consider its results;

5. To encourage Parties which have requirements for halon 1211, halon 1301 and halon 2402 to provide the following information to the Ozone Secretariat by 1 April 2008 to assist the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel with its study:

- (a) Projected need for halon 1211, halon 1301 and halon 2402 to support critical or essential equipment through the end of its useful life;
- (b) Any difficulties experienced to date, or foreseen, in accessing adequate halons to support critical or essential equipment;

6. To encourage Parties, on a regular basis, to inform their critical uses of halons, including the maritime industries, the aviation sector and the military, of the need to prepare for reduced access to halons in the future and to take all actions necessary to reduce their reliance on halons;

7. To request the Ozone Secretariat to write to the International Maritime Organization Secretariat and to the Secretariat of the International Civil Aviation Organization to draw their attention to the decreasing availability of halons for marine and aviation uses and to the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in their respective sectors.