

Toolbox Talk

50. Ozone Depleting Substances



What?

- Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) are substances which when released damage the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere). The ozone layer filters out harmful types of radiation from the sun
- ODS are made up of synthetic chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), chlorofluoromethane, or halon used in aerosol cans, plastic foams, refrigerants, and certain solvents

Why?

- Phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) helps fight climate change as many ODS gases are also powerful greenhouse gases
- Fluorinated gases (F-Gases) are an alternative to Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- As the ozone layer reduces, ultraviolet radiation from the sun increases causing a higher incidence rate of skin cancer

Do



- ✓ Ensure those conducting maintenance on equipment containing ODS are appropriately trained
- ✓ Make every effort to prevent, minimise and repair leaks of harmful gases
- ✓ Ensure correct monitoring and leak management of existing equipment containing refrigerants
- ✓ Keep records on leak tests and maintenance
- ✓ Report any release of harmful substances as quickly as possible
- ✓ Ensure outdoor workers cover up during sunny periods and put on barrier creams to protect against harmful radiation

Don't



- ✗ Work with f-Gases unless you are properly trained
- ✗ Release harmful substances
- ✗ Work in the sun without protection



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