



**AUTOMOTIVE
RECYCLERS
ASSOCIATION**
ESTABLISHED 1945



For Immediate Release:

February 8, 2010
Manassas, Virginia

For More Information Contact:

Jennifer Johnson
(571) 208-0428 (Phone)
(571) 208-0430 (Fax)

**ARA Requests EPA to Confirm Safety and Recyclability of
New Vehicle Air Conditioning Refrigerant (HFO-1234yf)**

ARA Comments to the EPA Outline Three Areas of Concern to Consumers and Auto Recyclers

Manassas, VA – The [Automotive Recyclers Association](#) (ARA) provided comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed rule to approve a new substitute refrigerant, HFO-1234yf, under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program. While ARA fully supports the intent of the SNAP Program to evaluate and regulate substitutes for the ozone-depleting chemicals that are being phased out under the stratospheric ozone protection provisions of the Clean Air Act, the Association is urging the EPA to look at the total lifecycle of the fluid, and consider all ramifications that may occur from the use, and ultimately, the disposal of the new fluid.

Detailed in the [Federal Register](#) proposed rule on October 19, 2009 (74 FR 53445), the EPA proposed to find HFO-1234yf acceptable as an alternative refrigerant for motor vehicle air conditioning systems, subject to use conditions. ARA appreciates the EPA’s obligations to identify the best available alternatives to ozone harming fluids. However, the ARA has raised several areas of concerns regarding potentially adverse consequences from the use of the new refrigerant. In comments provided to the EPA this week, ARA outlined those concerns to include the recyclability, safety, and feasibility of HFO-1234yf regarding the environment, automotive recycling employees and the general public.

As advocates for the professional automotive recycling industry, ARA’s concerns target the storage, disposal, occupational hazard, internal cost associated with specialized equipment, impact on air quality, and storm water run-off requirements. The specific questions raised highlight the need for further information and in-depth research for handling this new fluid during the dismantling process of an end-of-life vehicle, to identify any associated occupational dangers or potential costs that could be incurred by automotive recycling facilities and their employees, or any environmental impact it may have to the public regarding air quality or storm water run-off, which are two key issues of concern for the professional automotive recycler. The current ruling does not address these concerns with any specificity.

The EPA expressed a willingness to address these issues and gain more of an understanding about the automotive recycling industry as it moves closer to administering a final rule. “ARA is pleased that the EPA will address end-of-life disposal specifications in a follow-on rulemaking, and looks forward to working with EPA staff on this matter,” said Michael Wilson, ARA Executive Vice President. “Professional automotive recyclers have the expertise, availability, and willingness to assist the EPA with reaching a final decision that protects the environment, addresses safety concerns, and imposes the least amount of undue burden on the automotive recycling industry.”

Established in 1943, the [Automotive Recyclers Association](#) (“ARA”) represents an industry dedicated to the efficient removal and reuse of “green” automotive parts, and the proper recycling of inoperable motor vehicles. ARA represents over 4,500 auto recycling facilities in the United States and fourteen other countries around the world. With programs such as the Certified Automotive Recycler Program (CAR) and other partnerships, ARA members continue to provide consumers with quality, low cost alternatives for vehicle replacement parts, while preserving our environment for a “greener” tomorrow. To learn more about the Association, visit ARA online at www.a-r-a.org or call (571) 208-0428.