



Supported by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Transition to CFC-free inhalers

Awareness package for National Ozone Units in developing countries



In line with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987), countries throughout the world are working on the phase-out of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-containing metered dose inhalers for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

This awareness package aims to assist National Ozone Units (NOUs) and other key national stakeholders in developing countries to develop appropriate materials to ensure the seamless transition to CFC-free inhalers in each country. See *Awareness package instructions* for further details.

The awareness package consists of:

- Information statement for health professionals: *Prescribing CFC-free lung medicines*
- Consumer brochure for patients: *Using CFC-free lung medicines*
- PowerPoint presentation for health industry: *CFCs in inhalers for asthma and COPD*
- Draft letter to authorities
- Draft press release for health industry media
- Draft press release for general consumer media
- Draft radio announcement script
- Draft question and answer sheet

The resources were developed for use in developing countries by the United Nations Environment Programme in association with the National Asthma Council Australia.

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About the transition to CFC-free inhalers

Montreal Protocol measures to assist countries achieve a seamless and cost-effective transition to CFC-free MDIs have brought about some of the first national collaborations between health authorities, the pharmaceutical industry and Montreal Protocol agencies. Excellent public-private partnership models have evolved regionally and nationally, reflecting the significance of this important health and environmental issue, and the commitment of all sectors to its successful resolution.

About UNEP's OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol has a unique regionalized programme that delivers compliance assistance services to countries to assist them meet the international commitments under the Protocol. The compliance regime requires countries to achieve and sustain compliance, promote a greater sense of country ownership, and implement the agreed Executive Committee framework for strategic planning.

UNEP through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) moved from a project management approach to a direct implementation initiative through its specialized staff. Consistent with the above approach, the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) CAP team has developed to be the centre for policy advice and compliance guidance. The CAP team conducts training for refrigeration technicians, customs officers and other relevant stakeholders on compliance issues and promotes bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including high-level awareness by utilizing UNEP's staff.

Further information is available from: www.unep.fr/ozonAction

About the National Asthma Council Australia

The National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) is the leading national non-government organization for asthma in Australia. The NAC has a well-established international reputation and, as asthma prevalence increases, countries in Asia and the Pacific have looked to the NAC for advice on strategic planning, development of treatment guidelines, health professional education, consumer involvement, and the development of organisations based on the NAC model.

The NAC is a founding member of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group. It was recently asked to form the GP Asia Pacific Respiratory Board, which focuses on primary care respiratory health management in this region.

The NAC played a key role in the successful phase-out of CFC-containing inhalers in Australia in partnership with the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts, and with other stakeholders.

Further information is available from: www.NationalAsthma.org.au

Acknowledgements

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