



ODS IMPORT/EXPORT LICENSING SYSTEMS

RESOURCE MODULE

Phasing out ODS in Developing Countries

POLICY DESIGN AND SETTING UP OF LEGISLATION

United Nations Environment Programme
Industry and Environment



Multilateral Fund for the Implementation
of the Montreal Protocol



Stockholm Environment Institute



OzonAction Programme

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Foreword

Mounting scientific research has implicated chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and methyl bromide in the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, the segment of the earth's atmosphere which protects animal and plant life from the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation. In September 1987, nations concerned about this crisis signed the Montreal Protocol, a landmark agreement that identified the major ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and established a timetable for the reduction and eventual elimination of their use.

In July 1999, the first Montreal Protocol obligation applicable to developing countries will come into effect: developing countries need to freeze their consumption of the five main CFCs to the average consumption level during the years 1995 to 1997. During the following years further reductions will be required for the CFCs as well as for the other controlled substances. This poses a particular challenge to developing countries.

In meeting this challenge developing countries need to undertake a comprehensive national phase-out programme which will require the establishment of an appropriate policy and regulatory framework, as well as monitoring and control tools. Controls on the supply of the ozone depleting substances will play an important role in this context. The introduction of import and export licensing systems has become mandatory for all Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Such systems represent also a key measure for collection of data to monitor the ODS consumption.

The objective of this guidebook is to assist the developing country governments in the design and establishment of the import/export licensing systems. It is primarily written for government officers in charge of designing and implementing strategies to phase out the ODS and for their colleagues in authorities in charge of import and export controls in general. The intention is to provide practical help and step-by-step guidance for the design and implementation of ODS import and export controls. The main emphasis is on import controls.

The resource module is based on experience from various developed and developing countries where import and export licensing systems are already in place. It is hoped that this experience will be of value for those who will now set up new legislation as well as for those who would like to modify an existing system. With a wider application it is likely that more experience will emerge. UNEP IE welcomes comments and suggestions how this resource module could be improved and will consider them in future editions and activities.

The step-by-step methodology may also be useful when designing other policy and legislative measures to support the ODS phase-out programme.

This resource module is part of a series of documents produced by UNEP within its OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund. For information on related documents, see Chapter 1.6. More information is available in the World Wide Web at <http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction.html>.

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