

## **Fees and Charges - Import of Ozone Depleting Substances and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases and Pre-Charged Equipment**

There are a number of fees and charges associated with the import of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), Synthetic Greenhouse Gases (SGG) and refrigeration & air conditioning equipment containing refrigerants generically referred to as Pre Charged Equipment (PCE). Details of licences, what they allow and penalties associated with importing without a licence are contained in Part III-Licences of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* (the Act).

### **Licence Fees**

Authority: Paragraph 14 (1) (aa) of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*, and Regulation 3C of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*.

An application fee is charged for each of the licence types as shown below:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Controlled substances (ODS and SGG)                  | \$15,000 |
| • Used Substances -                                    | \$15,000 |
| • ODS for essential purposes -                         | \$3,000  |
| • Pre-charged equipment -                              | \$3,000  |
| • Exemptions granted under the Section 40 of the Act - | \$3,000  |

Applications must be made on an approved licence application form.

### **Import Levies**

Section 4 of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Act 1995* establishes a rate of levy payable on imports of ODS and SGG. These levies also apply to the volume of gas incorporated in any refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment imported. The rates are currently:

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • HCFCs—          | \$3,000 per ODP tonne |
| • Methyl bromide— | \$135 per tonne       |
| • SGGs—           | \$165 per tonne       |

Note: For the purposes of paragraph (a), the method of calculating ODP tonnes is set out in section 10 of the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

### **What happens to the money collected?**

Application fees and import levies are paid to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH). They do not attract a GST. The funds are paid into an account within the consolidated revenue fund and used solely for the purposes prescribed in the Act. These include the administration of the Act, assessment and processing of licence applications and to assist in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances and to minimise emissions of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases.

### **Product Stewardship obligations**

It is a condition of the import licence that an importer of a controlled substance (ODS or SGG), either in bulk or incorporated as a refrigerant in a piece of equipment, participate in an approved product stewardship scheme. This is to ensure that the product is responsibly managed, particularly at the end of the product's life when emissions are most common.

In most cases importers will choose to have a third party manage their product stewardship responsibility. Under this arrangement, funds paid to the organisation operating the scheme are set aside for the recovery and safe disposal of waste refrigerants at the end of the equipment life or when gases are recovered that are too contaminated to re-use or re-claim.