

Commerce HFC Antidumping Countermeasures

- HFC Blends ADD (285%) (R-404A, 410A, 407A, 407C, 507A) – initiated July 22, 2015; final June 29, 2016.
 - *Hydrofluorocarbon Blends and Components Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances* (A-570-028), 81 Fed. Reg. 42,314 (June 29, 2016).
- R-134a ADD (167%) – initiated Apr. 1, 2016; final Apr. 19, 2017.
 - *1,1,1,2 Tetrafluoroethane (R-134a) from the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order* (A-570-044), 82 Fed. Reg. 18,422 (Apr. 19, 2017).
- R-32 ADD (221%) – initiated Feb. 24, 2020; final Jan. 19, 2021.
 - *Difluoromethane (R-32) From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value* (A-570-121), 86 Fed. Reg. 5,136 (Jan. 19, 2021).
- R-125 ADD (under review) – initiated Feb. 8, 2021.
 - *Pentafluoroethane (R-125) From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation* (A-570-137), 86 Fed. Reg. 8,583 (Feb. 8, 2021).

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FOCUS

01 PORTABLE AND COMMERCIAL DUCTLESS

Illegal Imports Concern Refrigerant Manufacturers

Importers of Chinese HFCs may be evading U.S. antidumping laws

BY JOANNA TURPIN
THE NEWS STAFF

When the European Union (EU) slashed HFC supplies by 37 percent last year, some refrigerants became scarce, prices skyrocketed, and many worried that sales of illegal imports from non-EU countries could flourish. That is exactly what has happened, according to a new report from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), which states that as much as 16.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) of bulk HFCs were illegally placed on the EU market in 2018, representing more than 16 percent of the 2018 quota. This is in addition to "illegal imports of HFC-containing equipment and illegal HFCs that are likely being smuggled under the radar of customs."

Given the drastic cut in HFC supplies, the new black market for refrigerants in the EU is not surprising. What may be surprising is more so that the same problem appears to exist in the U.S. as well, even though HFCs are still readily available. According to the

ANTIDUMPING DUTIES: A Gao is a mean U.S. refrigerant reclaimer and an importer of bulk HFCs, including R-32 and R-125. Last year nonetheless, the company has been affected by antidumping duties.

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PRICE INCREASE

Leggett & Platt's (LSP) North Carolina commercial HVAC business unit announced a price increase of up to 8 percent on select applied equipment and controls for Trane, effective July 13.

RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR

Booster Home (Booster) purchased Specialty Contracting Group LLC (Phonix).

MANUFACTURERS

Danfoss (Danfoss) Pennsylvania appointed John Shaff to director of public and industry affairs for North America. Shaff succeeds Mark Menzer, who is preparing to retire.

Teco Comfort Solutions (Teco) Rhode Island hired Jason O'Neill as regional manager for wholesale products, covering the Western U.S. region.

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It's Fast Times for Commercial Ductless

Clearing hurdles with better equipment is the order of the day

BY ROBERT BEVERLY
THE NEWS STAFF

Faster, higher, stronger. Conduct some Q&A with professionals in and around the commercial ductless space these days, and the responses in which could make one think that Pico de Chocoma was describing this particular HVAC sector in 2019 with his three-word slogan, not coining the Olympic motto in 1896.

Technology, adoption, accessories — as each one makes a little progress these days, that feeds the other two — which in turn feeds the other, other two. In short, it's the good kind of loop.

How good?

Norick Global HVAC's Keith Clark, national sales manager, and James McHenry, national VRF training manager, claim to cover a lot of ground in a single sentence.

"Architects, engineers, commercial reps, contractors, distributors, and even end users are seeking to replace VRF with conventional equipment."

James DeBerry is manager of commercial marketing for Mitsubishi Electric True HVAC US (METTUS). He reports increased opportunities in large commercial buildings for both ductless and hybrid applications.

"Architects value the design freedom and equipment flexibility that comes with

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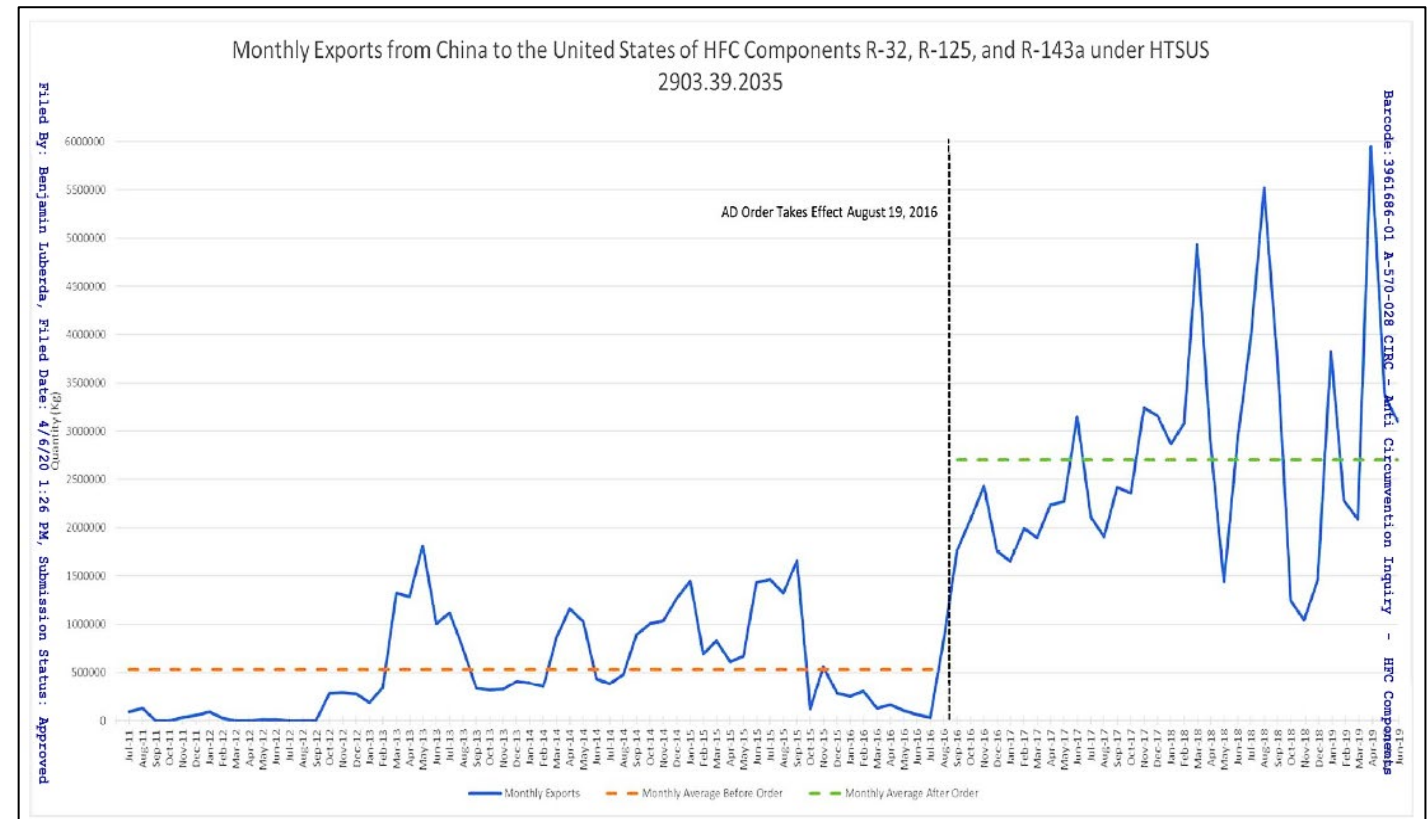
Commerce HFC Anticircumvention (trade cheating)

- Off-spec HFC blends (Weitron) – initiated June 18, 2019; final Mar. 18, 2020.
 - *Hydrofluorocarbon Blends From the People's Republic of China: Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order; Unfinished R-32/R-125 Blends* (A-570-028), 85 Fed. Reg. 15,428 (Mar. 18, 2020).
- Smuggled HFCs in patented blends (BMP) – initiated June 18, 2019 (scope inquiry initiated Mar. 5, 2018); final June 4, 2020.
 - *Hydrofluorocarbon Blends From the People's Republic of China: Final Scope Ruling on Unpatented R-421A; Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order for Unpatented R-421A* (A-570-028), 85 Fed. Reg. 34,416 (June 4, 2020).
- India HFC blending – initiated June 18, 2019; final Oct. 1, 2020.
 - *Hydrofluorocarbon Blends From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Scope Ruling on Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd.'s R-410A Blend; Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order by Indian Blends Containing Chinese Components* (A-570-028), 85 Fed. Reg. 61,930 (Oct. 1, 2020).
- HFC components (BMP) – initiated June 18, 2019; final Aug. 19, 2020 (ITC objection under appeal).
 - *Anti-Circumvention Inquiry of Antidumping Duty Order on Hydrofluorocarbon Blends From the People's Republic of China—HFC Components: Final Determination Not To Include Within the Scope of the Order*, 85 Fed. Reg. 51,018 (Aug. 19, 2020).

Surge in Dumped HFCs

“From July 2011, through August 2016 (i.e., when the [HFC Components] Order took effect), the average monthly exports of HFC components from China to the United States were 529,556 kilograms (Kg). From September 2016, through June 2019, monthly average exports of HFC components from China to the United States **surged to 2,707,659 Kg; an increase of 411.31 percent.**”

Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Anti-Circumvention Inquiry of the Antidumping Duty Order on Hydrofluorocarbon Blends from the People's Republic of China: HFC Components, dated Apr. 3, 2020 (emphasis added).



Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Anti-Circumvention Inquiry of the Antidumping Duty Order on Hydrofluorocarbon Blends from the People's Republic of China: HFC Components, dated Apr. 3, 2020.