



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
57th session  
Agenda item 4

MEPC 57/4/19\*  
25 January 2008  
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## PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

### Outcome of the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document reports on the outcome of the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on matters related to the long-term availability of halons
<b><i>Strategic direction:</i></b>	1, 2
<b><i>High-level action:</i></b>	1.1.2 and 2.1.1
<b><i>Planned output:</i></b>	2.1.1.1
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 5
<b><i>Related document:</i></b>	FP 52/21, paragraphs 18.14 to 18.16

#### General

1 At the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held from 17 to 21 September 2007 in Montreal, the above Parties requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC), which keeps Parties to the Montreal Protocol apprised of the status of the transition away from the use of halons, to further investigate the issue of major regional imbalances in the worldwide distribution of halons, taking into account HTOC reports that some countries may already be experiencing shortages affecting their industries.

2 In pursuance of *Decision XIX/16: Follow-up to the 2006 assessment report by the Halons Technical Options Committee*, which was taken at the nineteenth meeting and is set out in the attached annex, the Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol (herewith called the Ozone Secretariat) was requested to write to the Secretariats of the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to draw their attention to the decreasing availability of halons for marine and aviation uses and to the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in their respective sectors.

\* This is a revised version of document MSC 84/20/2 on the same subject.

**Outcome of FP 52**

3 The Sub-Committee on Fire Protection, at its fifty-second session (14-18 January 2008), was informed by the Secretariat of the outcome of the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, as requested by the Ozone Secretariat in its letter to IMO dated 19 December 2007, and noted, in particular, that:

- .1 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Technology and Economics Assessment Panel and its Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC), keeps Parties to the Montreal Protocol apprised of the status of the transition away from the use of halons;
- .2 the nineteenth meeting requested HTOC to further investigate the issue of major regional imbalances in the worldwide distribution of halons; and
- .3 the Ozone Secretariat was requested, by Decision XIX/16: Follow-up to the 2006 assessment report by HTOC, to communicate with IMO and ICAO to draw attention to the decreasing availability of halons for marine and aviation uses and to the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in the respective sectors.

4 In commenting on the above information, FP 52 noted the information provided verbally by a member of the United States delegation, also a UNEP representative, that UNEP had limited success in collecting data on halons for the maritime sector and, on behalf of UNEP, requested IMO to assist in this effort by encouraging its Member States to collect data on the number of halon systems; number of ships so equipped; and total amount of halons installed on their merchant fleets, and to convey this information to the Ozone Secretariat for its use in completing the assignment it has received from the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

**Action requested of the Committee**

5 As requested by the Ozone Secretariat, the Committee is invited to:

- .1 consider the decision taken by the nineteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in the maritime sector; and
- .2 note the request made at FP 52 for IMO to assist in this effort by encouraging its Member States to collect data on the number of halon systems; number of ships so equipped; and total amount of halons installed on their merchant fleets, and to convey this information to the Ozone Secretariat for its use in completing the assignment it has received from the Parties to the Montreal Protocol,

and take action as deemed appropriate.

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## ANNEX

**DECISION XIX/16: FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2006 ASSESSMENT REPORT BY THE HALONS TECHNICAL OPTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Meeting of the Parties decides:

*Welcoming* the 2006 assessment report of the Halons Technical Options Committee of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.

*Welcoming also* the continuing reduction in global halon use.

*Noting* the concern expressed by the Halons Technical Options Committee about the availability of certain halons around the world.

1. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to undertake a further study on projected regional imbalances in the availability of halon 1211, halon 1302 and halon 2402 and to investigate and propose mechanisms to better predict and mitigate such imbalances in the future;

2. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, when undertaking the study, to consult with the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund on the outcomes of its study on the operation of halon banks around the world and to use such information from that study as may be relevant to its own review;

3. To request the Ozone Secretariat to make available 2004, 2005 and 2006 halon consumption figures by type of halon the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel for its study;

4. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to submit its study in time to allow the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to consider its results;

5. To encourage Parties which have requirements for halon 1211, halon 1301 and halon 2402 to provide the following information to the Ozone Secretariat by 1 April 2008 to assist the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel with its study:

(a) Projected need for halon 1211, halon 1301 and halon 2402 to support critical or essential equipment through the end of its useful life;

(b) Any difficulties experienced to date, or foreseen, in accessing adequate halons to support critical or essential equipment;

6. To encourage Parties, on a regular basis, to inform their critical uses of halons, including the maritime industries, the aviation sector and the military, of the need to prepare for reduced access to halons in the future and to take all actions necessary to reduce their reliance on halons;

7. To request the Ozone Secretariat to write to the International Maritime Organization secretariat and to the secretariat of the International Civil Aviation Organization to draw their attention to the decreasing availability of halons for marine and aviation uses and to the need to take all actions necessary to reduce reliance on halons in their respective sectors.