

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Canada and 46 other countries have signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which came into force on 1 January 1989. The Protocol establishes a schedule to reduce the global consumption of five CFCs and three halons. The schedule for their reduction is:

- a freeze in consumption (defined as production plus imports minus exports of bulk chemicals) at 1986 levels of
 - CFCs starting on 1 July 1989
 - halons starting on 1 January 1992, and
- a reduction in consumption of CFCs of
 - 20% starting on 1 July 1993
 - 50% starting on 1 July 1998.

Canada has made regulations that control the consumption of CFCs as required by the Protocol and will soon put in place regulations for controlled halons. The CFC regulations actually go further than the existing Protocol and call for an 85% reduction no later than 1999.

Despite these controls, the total quantity of CFCs in Canada and globally continues to grow. In Canada we are adding some 20,000 to 25,000 tonnes per year to the existing stock. This annual addition is not required to be reduced until 1993 and then only by 20%.

The Protocol provides for adjusting control measures as more environmental, technical and economic information becomes available. As illustrated in Figure 2, compliance with the Protocol as it stands will not allow the ozone layer to recover its natural level of concentration. The only solution is to expand the range of substances covered and advance the target dates for their control. It is hoped this will be achieved at the meetings in London, in June 1990. Advancing the elimination of ozone depleting chemicals would also retard the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.