



MRBraz and Associates, PLLC

COOL NEWS

March 2019: Issue 11

CALIFORNIA RAISING THE BAR ON THE BAN OF HFCs



Globally, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol requires a phasedown of HFC consumption in the United States, beginning in 2019. Nationally, HFCs have been increasingly restricted across numerous end use sectors. All of this is happening in the context of the complete national phase out of the production and consumption of new HCFC-22 (R-22), currently the most widely used refrigerant, by 2020.

California's bans on high-GWP (Global Warming Potential) HFCs, went into effect in the state on January 1, 2019 for a number of supermarket applications as part of the implementation of the California Cooling Act (Senate Bill 1013). Senate Bill 1013 is the first of its kind, a statewide law that authorizes financial incentives for low-GWP refrigeration systems that include natural refrigerants. The bill also preserves the EPA deadlines established in 2016 requiring businesses to transition away from HFCs to alternative refrigerants. Due to a US Court of Appeals response in 2017, the deadlines were abandoned by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Cleaner air does not need to be a choice between protecting our planet and growing our economy," said Senator Ricardo Lara "With Washington embracing climate change denial, California is charging ahead to reduce super pollutants and do our part to fight global warming".

Bans of R404A and R507A, among other refrigerants, took effect on January 1 of this year for new and retrofit supermarket systems and remote condensing units; retrofit stand-alone units; new medium-temperature stand-alone units with a compressor capacity of less than 2,200 BTU/hr and not containing a flooded evaporator.

On January 1, 2020, R404A and R507a will be prohibited for new medium-temperature stand-alone units with a compressor capacity of 2,200 BTU/hr or greater, and containing a flooded evaporator, as well as for all new low-temperature stand-alone units. On January 1, 2023, R404A and R507A, among other refrigerants will be banned in new cold-storage warehouse systems. Under the new law, manufacturers cannot sell equipment or products that use prohibited HFCs manufactured after their respective prohibition dates.

Other states are following California's lead, with Connecticut, Maryland and New York announcing plans to develop regulations that will phase out the use of HFCs. All four states are part of the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of governors from 16 states and Puerto Rico, which announced last June its commitment to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including HFCs.



As more and more states start to follow suit, MRBraz Critically Charged Ammonia DX Packages continue to be the environmentally friendly and cost effective solution to phasing down HFCs.

Source: ww2.arb.ca.gov

IIAR 2019 CONFERENCE

MRBraz and Associates was at Booths 106 & 108 at this year's IIAR National Refrigeration Conference and Expo March 3-6, 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Attendees of the conference came from all facets of the refrigeration industry including design engineers, contractors, end users, academics, scientists, trainers, and government agencies.

Students from Azle High School's Industrial Refrigeration Classes I & II were also in attendance to make industry contacts, and to hopefully open doors that will help them find a job upon graduating.

TKS WORKSHOP

TKS led a 3 day Green Room Design Project Workshop in February for clients and end users at our VWMB 1114 location:



Our VP, Dan Braz presented on strategies to prevent condensation in refrigerated facilities.



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Preventing Accidents at Work

The National Safety Council defines an accident as an “undesired event that results in personal injury or property damage”. There’s no question that accidents are undesired, but the question we should all be asking is: are we doing everything we can to put ourselves in position to limit these events? Unfortunately, workplace accidents are still a very common thing.

Here are five suggestions to help prevent the most common accidents in the workplace.

Avoid Shortcuts- The first time you do something is usually the most thorough and probably the safest. Why? Because you took your time and followed directions. Whereas every time after, you find shortcuts and develop “faster” ways to do the same task.

Safety On ALL Fours- OSHA claims that workplace-driving accidents account for an average cost of \$60 billion a year to employers. Routine maintenance and inspections on a regular basis can reduce this significantly.

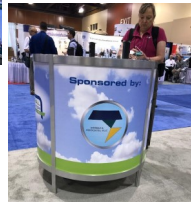
Sustain the Weather- Each new season offers a new threat and a new dimension to the workplace. While most focus on the elements and threats winters has to offer, summer can be just as dangerous.

PPE is Key- Personal Protective Equipment is a huge difference maker when it comes to injury prevention in the workplace. For whatever reason, PPE is neglected. Whether it’s because it doesn’t fit right or employees feel it’s not worth the time to put it on the fact is, there’s never a good excuse NOT to use PPE.

Clean, Clean, Clean- Poor housekeeping can be major safety hazard in the workplace that many overlook. The longer it continues, the more it becomes the norm, allowing for more clutter to build and increasing the risk of everyone, by that much more.

2019 IIAR CONFERENCE

Pictures of our Booth and Honorary Life Member Award ceremony at the 2019 IIAR Conference and Expo:



Thank you to all of you for your hard work that made it possible.

- Marcos Braz, President

Birthdays And Anniversaries

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- 3/2 Megan’s anniversary (2017)
 - 3/7 Kathy’s birthday
 - 3/9 Alejandro’s birthday
 - 3/10 Debra’s birthday
 - 3/18 Christian’s birthday
 - 3/26 Lesya’s anniversary (2018)
 - 3/27 Trisha’s anniversary (2017)

LOL Break

1. If you ever get cold, stand in the corner of a room for a while.

They're usually 90 degrees.

2. What's the best thing about Switzerland?

I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

When you say bye to someone and both of you leave in the same direction

