

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF AIRAH

SEPTEMBER 2017 · VOLUME 16.8

RRP \$14.95

PRINT POST APPROVAL
NUMBER PP352532/00001

Ecobalibrum

Maker's mark

A manufacturer
stakes a Green Star first.



US court rules against HFC bans

Low-GWP refrigerants have been dealt a blow by a US court ruling.



D.C. Court of Appeals.

Last month a federal appeals court struck down a US regulation that requires manufacturers to replace hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants with chemicals that are less potent greenhouse gases.

The decision is a victory to HFC makers, but a setback for manufacturers of hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), such as Honeywell International and Chemours.

“The fundamental problem for EPA is that HFCs are not ozone-depleting substances,” the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled.

Honeywell is “deeply disappointed” in the court’s ruling.

The legal case involved a 2015 regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agency restricted

HFCs and blends containing HFCs because of their potential to contribute significantly to global warming.

Not only did the regulation limit these chemicals in refrigerants for vehicle air conditioners, coolers in groceries and other retail stores, and vending machines, it also limited their use as blowing agents that expand plastic into the foam and in aerosol cans.

The EPA based this regulation on a part of the US Clean Air Act, which requires manufacturers to replace substances that deplete stratospheric ozone with safer substitutes.

But the court ruled the section of the Clean Air Act that the EPA used as the basis for its regulation does not give the agency authority to require replacement of substances that do not harm stratospheric ozone. HFOs, like HFCs, are benign to stratospheric ozone.

The decision has implications for the US in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Under that pact, the US has an obligation to phase out HFCs

Says Honeywell: “We strongly encourage the EPA to continue pursuing the phase-out of HFCs and the benefits it provides.” ■



Based in Perth, Jessica Crooks, Stud.AIRAH, works for IACS, providing technical service support for Acson and MDV unitary.

Responsibilities

I liaise with service techs to clarify technical queries, as well as supplying spare parts. I also assist in commissioning new projects, as well as setting up computer-controlled systems for these projects. Organising warranty jobs is another part of my role.

Speciality

My speciality is HVAC central plant and BMS system maintenance. I spent a lot of time at Central Park, Crown Casino and other commercial sites during my apprenticeship, and gained a lot of good experience working on central plant chilled-water and air-handling systems.

Passions

I am passionate about the technical side of my profession. I always endeavour to ensure that HVAC systems are operating at their optimum peak performance and efficiency.

Challenges

Many aspects of my trade have been a challenge for me, including fault finding, troubleshooting, understanding water and air-flow systems, also BMS system operation.

Professional development

I am currently working through my Certificate 4 commissioning and engineering course at Carlisle TAFE to assist with my professional development. I also keep abreast of new technology and innovations in our industry by reading publications and internet information sources.

Future plans

I am concentrating on my career development, improving my technical experience and ability so that I can advance in the HVAC&R industry into a supervisory or senior technical role. ■

Future focused

AIRAH’s premier conference series hits Sydney this month.

Held at Doltone House Darling Island Wharf in Sydney from September 13–14, The Future of HVAC 2017 Conference will explore the advances, ideas, and innovations that are driving the HVAC&R industry’s future.

The discussion will encompass not only new HVAC technologies and materials, but developments in future design processes, HVAC and smart grids, net-zero buildings, big data, and many other topics.



“The HVAC&R industry continues to evolve, and it’s vital that those involved stay up to date,” says AIRAH CEO Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH.

“The Future of HVAC 2017 Conference will once again provide the platform for our industry’s leading thinkers to discuss and unpack the most important issues, technologies and ideas confronting the HVAC&R landscape.” ■

Go to www.airah.org.au/thefutureofHVAC