



# Halons in fire-extinguishing systems

## Controls on Manufacture, Import and Export of Halons

In Canada, the federal *Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternative Regulations* (ODSHAR) control the manufacture, import, export, use and sale of ozone-depleting substances, including halons, as well as their halocarbon alternatives and certain products containing these substances. With respect to the production and consumption of halons, the ODSHAR prohibits:

- › The import and export of halons, with limited exceptions that must be authorized under permit by Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- › The use and sale of halons, with certain specific exceptions;
- › The manufacture of halons and products containing or designed to contain halons, such as fire-extinguishing systems;
- › The import of products that contain or are designed to contain halons, except for use in aircraft, military ships or military vehicles, or in an aircraft, ship or vehicle manufactured before 1999.

Further information on the provisions of the ODSHAR, including the permitting process, may be obtained by contacting the Halocarbon Management Team.

Please note that other Regulations might also apply to the import and export of halons:

1. [Cross-border Movement of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations](#)
2. [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations](#)

## Prohibitions regarding use and installation of fire-extinguishing system with Halons

In addition to being ozone-depleting substances, halons are greenhouse gases. In order to reduce and prevent emissions of halons in Canada, the use and handling of halons are regulated by the provinces/territories in their respective jurisdictions, and through the *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2022* (FHR 2022) for systems under federal jurisdiction. **If a halon fire-extinguishing system is not subject to the FHR 2022, it falls under provincial/territorial jurisdiction and is subject to the applicable provincial or territorial regulations.**

### Installation or activation

It is prohibited to install or activate a fire-extinguishing system that contains or is designed to contain Halons (and any of the substances listed in item 1 to 9 of Schedule 1 of the FHR 2022), unless

- › The system is reactivated at the same site
- › The system is installed in a military vehicle
- › The system is installed during the manufacture of a new civilian aircraft in accordance with the [Convention on International Civil Aviation](#); or
- › It is authorized by a permit issued under Subsection 20(2) of the FHR 2022.

## Charging

It is prohibited to charge a fire-extinguishing system that contains or is designed to contain Halons (and any of the substances listed in item 1 to 9 of Schedule 1 of the FHR 2022), unless

- › The charge replaces a halocarbon that is recovered to service the system and the charge does not result in a net gain in the amount of halon contained in the system;
- › The system is for use in a military vehicle;
- › The system is for use in a civilian aircraft; or
- › It is authorized by a permit issued under subsection 20(2) of the FHR 2022.

## Requirements for Permanent withdrawal from use of Halon Fire-Extinguishing Systems and Recovery of Halons

Halons must be properly recovered from decommissioned systems to prevent releases. Extreme care must be taken when decommissioning a halon fire-extinguishing system to prevent releases. Before a system is permanently withdrawn from use, the halon must be recovered. The equipment used to recover a halocarbon from a fire-extinguishing system must have a rated transfer efficiency of at least 99%.

A notice needs to be affixed to the system indicating all halon contained has been recovered properly, as prescribe under section 16 of the FHR 2022.

The FHR 2022 requires that halons be recovered, stored and transported in containers designed and manufactured to be refilled and to contain that specific type of halon (Section 6).

## Further Information

Requests for further information on the ODSHAR and FHR 2022 can be forwarded to:

Halocarbons Management  
Chemical Production Division  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
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[View full text of consolidated Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternative Regulations](#)

[View full text of consolidated Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2022](#)

**For more information, visit our website [www.canada.ca/federal-halocarbon-regulations](http://www.canada.ca/federal-halocarbon-regulations).**

If the information you need is not available on our website, contact your regional office or the Halocarbon Program:

Pacific & Yukon: [rfhpromcon-py-fhrcompro@ec.gc.ca](mailto:rfhpromcon-py-fhrcompro@ec.gc.ca)

Prairies & Northern: [promconrpn-compropnr@ec.gc.ca](mailto:promconrpn-compropnr@ec.gc.ca)

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**Disclaimer:** This material has been prepared for convenience of reference and accessibility and does not have an official character. It is of a general nature only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the Regulations, users must consult the official version of the *Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2022* and seek their own legal advice as appropriate.

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