



The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme

Consultation on synthetic greenhouse gas draft regulations

A month-long consultation on draft regulations for synthetic greenhouse gases under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) begins on **June 28 2010**. The consultation is being run by the Ministry for the Environment and the draft regulations and information are available at www.climatechange.govt.nz/ets.

The synthetic greenhouse gases covered by the NZ ETS are hydrofluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. These have specialist uses in air conditioning and refrigeration systems, aerosols and in electricity transmission. The draft regulations include amendments to two sets of existing Climate Change regulations as well as a proposal to exempt certain goods containing synthetic greenhouse gases from the NZ ETS.

The amendments to the Climate Change (Stationary Energy and Industrial Processes) Regulations 2009 will be of interest to people who import synthetic greenhouse gases, including gases contained in goods, or who manufacture the gases. These people can voluntarily report under the NZ ETS from 1 January 2011. They are required to report on these gases from 1 January 2012, and are responsible for surrendering emissions units to cover their importation of these gases from 1 January 2013. These regulations provide detail on how people must calculate quantity of gases for the purpose of determining their liability under the NZ ETS.

The amendments to the Climate Change (Other Removal Activities) Regulations 2009 will be of interest to those who export or destroy synthetic greenhouse gases, including those contained in goods. Under the Act, these people can apply to be 'removal participants' and receive credits of emissions units. The regulations detail how people should calculate the emissions avoided as a result of their exporting or destruction activities, and thus how many units they will be entitled to.

The proposed exemptions apply to a range of imported and exported goods that contain synthetic greenhouse gases. These include aircraft and ships travelling internationally that contain synthetic greenhouse gases in their refrigeration systems, goods that are for personal and non-business use and motor vehicles up to a set threshold.

The consultation period on the proposed regulations is from **28 June to 23 July 2010**. Hard copies of the draft regulations are available from the Ministry for the Environment. Submissions should be sent to emissionstrading@mfe.govt.nz or Emissions Trading, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington.

For further information, go to www.climatechange.govt.nz, email emissionstrading@mfe.govt.nz or call 0800 Climate (0800 254 628).

