Most environmental control units (ECUs) in the Army are cooled with R-22 refrigerant. But because R-22 is considered an ozone-depleting substance (ODS), the amount produced each year has steadily declined.

In 2010, only 25 percent of the total amount produced in 1989 was made. In 2015, that’s being reduced to 10 percent. In 2020, just five years from now, all production and imports will go to zero!

On top of that, Army policy now prohibits buying R-22 commercially or through a contractor logistics support contract. That’s to avoid the rash of “fake” refrigerant that’s been appearing on the market the last few years. You can still get R-22 through DLA, but it won’t last forever and the prices will keep going up.

Reclaimed R-22 is also available in 1,050-lb cylinders under NSN 6830-01-567-9038. For the same 1 cent price. But these cylinders are designed for sustainment-level maintenance activities, like depots or RESET programs.

Recovery cylinders are available for a penny apiece and the ODS Reserve will also supply a Transportation Account Code for returning filled cylinders. Go to: http://www.aviation.dla.mil/userweb/aviationengineering/OZONE/

Click on LOGISTICAL PROTOCOLS in the left-hand columns for requisitioning and turn-in procedures.

Questions? Contact the ESO Director, Ms. Poppy Harrover, information below.

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