

Frequently Asked Questions About High Global Warming Potential Gases and Reporting Requirements

I do not understand the measurement of 10,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. Can you explain in more detail?

- Carbon dioxide equivalents is a way to measure the global warming impact of a chemical, compared to the impact of carbon dioxide. For example, HFC-23 has a global warming potential (GWP) of 14,800, meaning that one pound of HFC-23 has the same impact in the atmosphere as 14,800 pounds of carbon dioxide. You only need to purchase 1,480 pounds of HFC-23 to equal 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- The spreadsheet automatically calculates the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for the pounds of chemical you enter, based on this formula:
$$(\text{Pounds Purchased} * \text{GWP}) / (2204.6 \text{ lbs/Mt}) = \text{Metric tons CO}_2\text{e}$$
- The pounds of a chemical that trigger the reporting threshold were calculated as follows:
$$(10,000 \text{ MT CO}_2\text{e} ((2204.6 \text{ lbs/Mt}))/\text{GWP of chemical} = \text{lbs of chemical}$$

I purchase a blend of multiple chemicals listed. How do I report?

- You should find out what designated chemicals are used in your blend, and the proportions of each; your supplier may be able to help. Once you know the proportion of each chemical in your blend, and the total amount of the blend purchased, you can figure out the amounts of each chemical that you purchased. Putting the amount purchased of each designated chemical into the reporting spreadsheet will tell you if you need to report.
- A reference to look up the chemicals in common blends can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/spdpublic/snap/refrigerants/refblend.html>

I purchased a product, such as fire suppression equipment, that contains a high GWP chemical. Do I need to report?

- Yes, you do need to report the chemical contained in a purchased product if it exceeds an equivalent of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent within a calendar year. Examples may include a transformer that is charged with sulfur hexafluoride. If you have any questions, please contact the MPCA at 651-757-2769.

We use a contractor to maintain our air conditioners/refrigerators/etc. Do I need to report?

- The short answer is “yes, you need to report.” You would only need to make a report if your service involved the use of a new gas charge equivalent to 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, either in one service call or over several service calls throughout the calendar year. Please see the conversion table posted on the website. If you have any questions, please contact the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) at 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864.

Why are the global warming potentials different from the values used in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency climate leaders program?

- Global warming potentials are a measure of radiative forcing, or how much a unit of gas is expected to contribute to global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports contain estimates of global warming potentials for many chemicals. The legislation that required reporting specified that we use the global warming potential as estimated in the IPCC Fourth Assessment, as estimated over 100 years. Some reporting protocols continue to use the older estimates in the IPCC Second Assessment Report, which is why there are multiple

estimates. As more of these gases are studied, more GWP estimates are available and some of the older estimates are changing.

I did not receive a letter notifying me of the reporting requirement, but my company purchases some of these chemicals. Do we have to report?

- You might need to report, even though you did not receive a letter. If you purchase an amount of one of these chemicals that is greater than the equivalent to 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), (either at one time or over a period of a calendar year) you should submit a report. We attempted to contact companies that hold other MPCA permits and searched trade association membership lists, but may have missed some companies that use these chemicals.

Do I report emissions or sales of high global warming potential gases?

- Under the language of the statute, a purchaser will report the amount of gas they purchased if it exceeds the reporting threshold of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. The state also provides for an entity to send along emission data if it is the same information submitted to a federal or regional greenhouse gas reporting program, so long as the form is approved by the Commissioner of the MPCA. In the event that you wish to submit an emission data reporting form used for federal or regional climate change gas reporting, contact the MPCA for additional details at 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864.

How can I protect my sales data so that I can avoid identify my clients?

- Under certain circumstances, the MPCA is able to keep sales data as non-public. Typically, this type of information is restricted to the identification of clients, though not exclusively. If you wish to make a claim to protect your sales data, please contact the MPCA for details on making the request at 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864.