

Natural Refrigerants: the only solution? ATMOSphere 2010



Mart Peeman Cofely Refrigeration NL Operational Director

and

Vice President NVKL



- NVKL is the Dutch Association for companies active in Refrigeration and Airconditioning
- Contractors and suppliers
- 500 members
- Quality demands for contractors
- Major themes: Technology, Marketing and Education



- Montreal Protocol (1989): ban on CFC's en HCFC's
- CFK's: R11, R12 and R502 allready phased out
- HCFC's: R22 en 401, 402, 403, 408 en 409 (still on the market)
- R22 to be phased out at end of 2014





Aim NVKL: ensuring highest level of reliability, energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness

Key element in designing RAC system: "right" refrigerant; criteria:

- -Characteristics of system
- -Use
- -Location
- -Safety
- -Cost
- -Energy efficiency
- -Environmental performance



- NR's play important role in future
- In terms of energy perf suitable in certain systems
- HC's perform well in smal applications
- CO₂ and NH₃ most adapted in large systems However:
- NR's need much higher level of knowledge
- < 10% of contractors (NL) are equiped
- Education is highest priority
- First 10 years unsufficient capacity



NVKL realised NR education in 3 modules:

NR1:

- Explaining differences between natural and synthetic refrigerants
- Specific information
 - rules, laws and developments in next future
 - durability
 - comparison of designs
 - propane, isobutene, carbon dioxide (CO₂), ammonia NH₃ (R717), ammonia with demithyl ether (R723)
- Introduction half day only

<u>Goal</u>: grow of interest and more widely knowledge



NR2:

- Designing and engineering systems with natural refrigerants
- Technical documentation and work
 instructions
- Energy consumption and possibilities for governmental grants
- 10 evenings 16.00 till 20.00
- <u>Goal</u>: Theoretical knowledge on system design and safety



NR3:

- Practical exercises on CO₂, NH₃ and propane systems in operation
- Learning and training of skills necessary if working with natural refrigerants and the use of personal safety provisions
- Focus on a number of cases as in normal practice:
 - Gas sensors with set values
 - How to handle in emergency circumstances
 - Start up and shut down procedures
 - Oil draining
 - Changing dryer cores
 - Replacing of some components



- Training and learning on environmental safety, based on:
- EN 378: requirements of the competent persons
- EN 13313: Competence of personnel
- Dutch rules for Ammonia plants PGS13
- 5 days including examination and certification



Training unit consists of:

- NH₃/CO₂ cascade system, capacity 50 kW
- NH₃ pump system with cold room
- Flooded NH₃/CO₂ cascade condenser
- CO₂ pump system with a cabinet for CO₂ as coolant
- CO₂ compressor system at -35⁰/-8^oC freezing room at -30^oC
- Emergency cooling system with propane







Trainings unit at site





Simulation example



However:

- No refrigerant offers ideal solution in all cases
- Each system to be looked at in its own merits
- HFC's remain most energy efficient in wide range of small / medium applications
- Let expert contractors make professional choice



And:

- HFC's are harmless when kept in
- When we can prevent NH₃ leaks: we can also keep HFC's in
- HFC's remain most energy efficient in wide range of small / medium applications
- Let expert contractors make professional choice



Therefor:

- Development of NR's is a positive evolution
- As is the development of more environmental friendly synthetic refrigerants
- Energy efficiency records of HFC's must not be ignored.



Thank you!