

SmartNotes

I'm hearing a lot about SNAP in my lab. What is SNAP?

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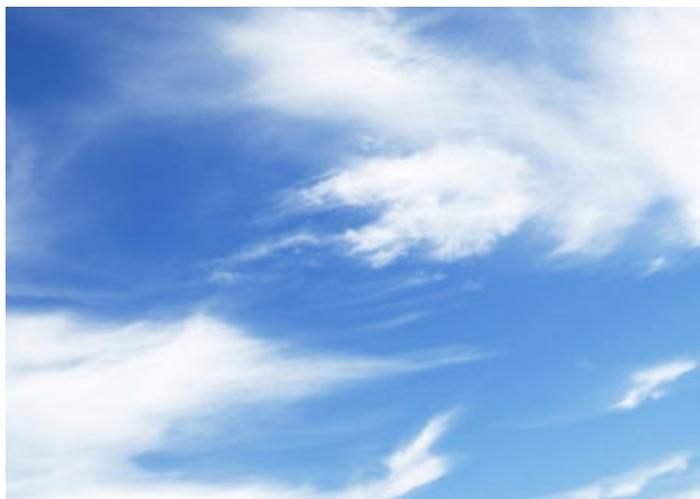
SNAP is an acronym for Significant New Alternatives Policy* which is part of the US Clean Air Act under the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), designed to:

- Identify and evaluate substitutes in end-uses that have historically used ozone-depleting substances (ODS)
- Look at overall risk to human health and the environment of both existing and new substitutes
- Publish lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes by end-use
- Promote the use of acceptable substitutes
- Provide the public with information about the potential environmental and human health impacts of substitutes

Determining the acceptability of substitutes, the EPA performs a cross-media analysis of risks to human health and the environment from the use of various substitutes in different industrial and consumer uses that have historically used ODS. EPA reviews characteristics, including the following, when evaluating each proposed substitute:

- Ozone depletion potential (ODP)
- Global warming potential (GWP)
- Toxicity
- Flammability
- Occupational and consumer health/safety
- Local air quality
- Ecosystem effects

* <https://www.epa.gov/snap>. Accessed June, 2016



Thermo Scientific™ TSX Series ultra-low freezers are SNAP compliant

So, what do we mean by “SNAP compliant”?

Under Title VI of the Clean Air Act (Stratospheric Ozone Protection), regulations were established to phase out the use of both CFCs and HCFCs. Under section 612 of that Act, the EPA is empowered to review and approve new substitutes, and prohibit the use of older refrigerants to reduce the overall risk to human health and the environment. Hence, the EPA’s Significant New Alternative Policy (SNAP) program was created.

In June 2013, the Climate Action Plan further instructed the EPA to use the SNAP program to reduce HFC emissions throughout the U.S., which has a higher potential to affect climate change than natural refrigerants. To this end, the EPA approved various natural refrigerants, including R290 and R170, for use in a refrigeration sealed system, and established phase-out dates for the use of HFCs in insulating foams.

Our TSX Series ultra-low freezers are “SNAP compliant”, meaning we have already transitioned from HFCs in our insulating foam to the approved natural refrigerants—well in advance of any phase-out deadlines. Thermo Fisher Scientific is committed to making our cold storage products support the Climate Action Plan.



Conclusion: Thermo Scientific TSX Series ultra-low freezers meet the requirements for SNAP

Find out more at thermofisher.com/tsx

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