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**AHAM & U.S. EPA RELEASE VOLUNTARY
RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR HFC USAGE**

WASHINGTON, DC (January 12, 2006)-- The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released voluntary "Recommended Practices for Minimizing HFC Emissions from Refrigerator-Freezer Factories" to serve as a template for manufacturers of these products worldwide to follow emission reduction strategies wherever HFCs are used in the production of household refrigerators-freezers. HFCs, or hydrofluorocarbons, are used in refrigerators and freezers in two ways - as the "working fluid" refrigerant and as a "blowing agent" for the insulation foam within the cabinet walls. HFCs have become widely used as substitutes for CFCs and other ozone depleting chemicals, and while they do not deplete stratospheric ozone, when released to the atmosphere, HFCs have relatively high global warming potency.

"Appliance manufacturers have been leaders in deploying ozone-friendly refrigerants and foam blowing agents while increasing the energy efficiency of their products," said Jeff Cohen, Chief of the Alternatives and Emission Reduction Branch at EPA. "Implementation of these practices is part of a continuing partnership to quantify emissions and to promote advanced technologies and practices that reduce atmospheric impacts."

Prior to issuing these Recommended Practices, AHAM was also a signatory to the Responsible Use Principles (RUPs) for HFCs initially published in 2002 by UNEP, EPA, METI and the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy (ARAP). The recently released Recommended Practices build upon the general principles for HFC use outlined in the RUPs to recommend specific strategies for reducing emissions during all stages of production of household refrigerators and freezers including delivery, storage, and transfer of refrigerants and blowing agents, as well as factory piping, blending operations, calibration of foam blowing equipment, foam injection and refrigerant system charging, testing, and refrigerant recovery.

The Practices are intended to be used as part of a comprehensive program which includes preventative maintenance, training, and education. However, they are not intended to replace or supersede any applicable government regulations on storage, use, or handling of refrigerants mandated by the Clean Air Act. Due to the increasing cost of refrigerants and blowing agents, there is a strong incentive for manufacturers to minimize emissions

and waste. Therefore, it is in the best interest of companies to implement the Recommended Practices.

AHAM's Vice President of Technical Services, Larry R. Wethje, describes the document as "a significant aid to all refrigerator-freezer manufacturers and particularly helpful in minimizing the emissions at new plants, as they are designed. AHAM and EPA have partnered on a number of significant efforts to research and reduce the environmental impact of refrigerants."

To retrieve a copy of the Recommended Practices please log onto to www.aham.org/recommendedpractices.

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The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is a not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry and is headquartered in Washington, DC. You can visit the AHAM web site at <http://www.aham.org>