

[Read this alert online.](#)

Allen Matkins



Eileen M. Nottoli
Of Counsel
San Francisco
(415) 273-7481
enottoli@allenmatkins.com

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP is a California law firm with over 240 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in Orange County, Los Angeles, Century City, Del Mar Heights, San Diego, San Francisco and Walnut Creek. The firm's broad based areas of focus include corporate, real estate, construction, real estate finance, business litigation, employment and labor law, taxation, land use, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, intellectual property, and environmental. [more...](#)

Environmental Alert

California Plans to Regulate Commercial Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Systems

As part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, California's Air Resources Board ("ARB") has proposed regulations on the operation of air conditioning and other refrigeration systems with more than 50 pounds of a high greenhouse warming potential ("high-GWP") refrigerant.

The information in this alert applies to any company or entity that operates commercial air conditioning systems or refrigeration systems.

You may want to provide comments on the regulations or participate in the next workshop on the latest draft regulations to be held in early 2009.

High-GWP refrigerants are chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and their mixtures. The workshop will be held in early 2009 and presents an opportunity for owners and operators of commercial office buildings, cold storage facilities, and other operations using GWP-refrigerants to provide input on the regulations.

As currently proposed, owners or operators of existing refrigeration and air-conditioning systems must register to operate with the local air district or the ARB and implement leak detection and monitoring. The compliance deadline for large systems with 2000 pounds or more of GWP refrigerant would be January 31, 2010, the deadline for medium systems with 200 pounds or more but less than 2000 pounds would be January 31, 2012, and the deadline for small systems with 50 pounds or more but less than 200 pounds would be January 31, 2014. As of January 31, 2010, new systems with 50 pounds or more refrigerant would need to register with the local air district or the ARB.

Leak detection systems, annual reporting and inspections will be required

Large systems intended to operate year round would be required to install automatic leak detection systems. Medium systems would conduct quarterly leak inspections. Small systems would conduct annual leak inspections unless the system is using an automatic leak detection system. Repairs would need to be conducted within 14 days followed by verification testing. Should a repair require additional time, the owner or operator must submit a retrofit and retirement plan to the local air district for approval

within 14 days of a failed verification to retrofit or retire the leaking component.

Owners and operators would be required to submit an annual report to the local air district on service and leak repairs completed, refrigerant purchased, and refrigerant shipped for reclamation or destruction. Records of inspections, service, and repairs would be kept for five years.

Allen Matkins Environmental Attorneys

John Allen
Pam Andes
Shanda Beltran
David Blackwell
Pat Breen
James Burroughs
David Cooke
William Devine

Jan Driscoll
Michael Durkee
Cathy Hongola
James Meeder
Emily Murray
Sandi Nichols
Eileen Nottoli
Yadira Taylor
Robert Wyatt

Orange County
(949) 553-1313

San Diego
(619) 233-1155

Century City
(310) 788-2400

Walnut Creek
(925) 943-5551

Los Angeles
(213) 622-5555

San Francisco
(415) 837-1515

Del Mar Heights
(858) 481-5055

© 2009 Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP. All rights reserved.

This email is intended for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinions on any specific facts or circumstances. This email was sent by: Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, 515 S. Figueroa Street, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071. To stop receiving this publication, just reply and enter "unsubscribe" in the subject line.