

# CAPCO UPDATE

## ***EPA Reports the Ozone Layer is Recovering!*** ***June 2007***

On April 26, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the "Achievements in Stratospheric Ozone Protection Progress Report." This September marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, and through this report, the EPA draws attention to the fact that the international agreement has been a success and the future looks optimistic for the Earth's upper ozone layer! In addition, the EPA recognizes and praises those who contributed to phasing out and finding alternatives to chemicals such as CFCs, including aerosol industry leaders.

This report contains interesting and useful information that you, as representatives of the aerosol industry, should be proud to promote. Below are some highlights, but the full report can be accessed from the EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/2007stratozoneprogressreport.html>

### Highlights from the Report

- ❖ "By the year 2165, actions to protect and restore the ozone layer will save an estimated 6.3 million U.S. lives that would have otherwise been lost to skin cancer." (pg. 7)
- ❖ "[S]ince most ozone-depleting substances are also potent greenhouse gases, replacing these substances with alternatives that are safer for the ozone layer can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change." (pg. 8)
- ❖ "Antarctic ozone is projected to return to pre-1980 levels by 2060 to 2075." (pg. 5)
- ❖ "The ozone layer has not grown thinner since 1998 over most of the world, and it appears to be recovering because of reduced emissions of ozone-depleting substances." (pg. 5)

*"Those of us who have been fighting for the ozone layer since the early 1980s look back in amazement at what has been accomplished. Most of us consider our work on ozone as the most important part of our lives."*

*-Dr. Iwona Rummel-Bulska, UNEP (pg. 3)*

The report highlights aerosol industry partners who have been leaders in environmental protection:

**SC Johnson:** June 8, 1975, SC Johnson announced that it would eliminate CFCs as the propellant in its aerosol products.

**DuPont:** In the 1970s, DuPont voluntarily conducted tests to determine the effect of CFCs on stratospheric ozone and developed alternatives to CFCs. DuPont helped form the international Programme for Alternative Fluorocarbon Toxicity (PAFT), that worked to encourage use of alternatives to CFCs throughout the industry.

**3M:** Developed the first alternative to CFC propellants in asthma inhalers.

### Other News

Asthma inhalers have been exempt from the CFC ban, but recently it has been announced that all asthma inhalers in the United States will be CFC-free by December 31, 2008!

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***“It’s O.K. To Spray!”***