

## ■ EPA is responsible for regulating greenhouse gases

**T**he United States Supreme Court ruled on April 2, 2007, that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for regulating greenhouse gases. The Court made a decision (5 for 4 against) declaring that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases qualify as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act and thus, "... the EPA has the statutory authority to regulate the emission of such gases from new motor vehicles."

For the HVACR industry, this means that hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, like R-134a, R404A, R507 and R410A, and HFC-base fire suppressants will likely fall

under stricter regulations because of their global warming potential.

California has already started efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

**"Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases qualify as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act."**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) proposed a ban on the retail sale of refrigerants as one of many steps that California may take this "early action" step, which could be

adopted as a new regulation by Jan. 1, 2010, was among many presented by CARB that would affect the HVACR industry.

Bob Constant, government affairs chairman of the Automotive Service Councils of California, favors CARB's "early-action step" to ban retail sales of refrigerants. However, he objects to a long-term proposal to demand pressure testing of air conditioning systems during routine smog checks, because that could require specialized smog-check businesses to purchase expensive equipment to examine air conditioning systems.

Only time will tell what regulations are modified, enacted and enforced in the HVACR industry. Updates will be posted upon their release at [www.rses.org](http://www.rses.org). ♦