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HOUSTON COMPANY INVENTS FIRST VAPOR RECOVERY MACHINE AND RECYCLER EFFECTIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT FOR LARGE INDUSTRIAL COOLING SYSTEMS

(HOUSTON) The first vapor recovery machine and recycler effective for the tough needs of large industrial cooling systems is now available.

Winn's Manufacturing Company in Houston has developed the first recovery system 98-99% effective in recovering and processing high and low pressure refrigerants in industrial applications without releasing hazardous chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere.

Due to the dangers of CFCs, the EPA has released stringent requirements regulating the release of refrigerants. Liquid and vapor from high and low pressure systems must be reduced down to just 20-25 inches of vacuum. Fines for releasing CFCs

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NEWSMAKERS

Chilling out: Inventor creates machine to contain harm

When Fred Winn took his first correspondence course on air conditioning refrigerants in 1963, he never dreamed he would wind up creating a machine to help building owners comply with the Clean Air Act.

Since the beginning of this year, commercial and industrial building owners have grappled with regulations covering the use of Freon — technically called chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs — the liquid cooling agent in air-conditioning units. The major Environmental Protection Agency mandate was to stop "venting" of CFCs, which occurs when air conditioners are opened up for maintenance.

But when the CFC regulations were enacted, building owners complained that the remedy for effectively containing ozone-depleting vapors didn't exist.

So Winn developed a system that

600 pounds of CFC gas per hour. This compares with a recovery rate of about 100 pounds per hour in other systems, he says. In a 10,000-pound unit, that makes a difference of several days in the time that an air-conditioning unit is out of service.

Winn has operated Winn's Manufacturing and Chiller Service for the last two years, but he says he started thinking about how to rectify the venting problem about 10 years ago when he was working for a major air-conditioning manufacturer.

He was servicing an air-conditioning system at a chemical

plant in town, and was forced to vent 8,000 pounds of Freon vapor. There were no regulations prohibiting the practice at that time, and it was widely accepted in the industry.

"It upset me because I knew that when you release anything like that into the atmosphere, it's going to come back and get you," Winn explains.

Winn has spent the last two years building his vapor recovery machine on special assignment from DuPont, the company that originally invented Freon.

He has had inquiries about building similar units for other companies, but says that the

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