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Q20

Consider the following: 1. Aerosols 2. Foam agents 3. Fire retardants 4. Lubricants In the making of how many of the above are hydrofluorocarbons used? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only one. HFCs appear in more than one of the listed uses.

(b)

Only two. Aerosols, foam blowing and fire suppression all use HFCs.

(c) Official key

Only three. Aerosols, foam agents and fire retardants / suppression. Lubricants are not an HFC use-class here.

(d)

All four. Lubricants are oils, not HFC applications in this listing.

Summary

Official key is (c) only three. Hydrofluorocarbons replaced CFCs in aerosols, foam blowing and some fire-extinguishing systems. They are refrigerants too. They are not used as lubricants, so four is too many.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

HFC

Hydrofluorocarbon; Kyoto/Kigali greenhouse gas; not an ozone-depleter like CFC.

Kigali Amendment

2016; phases down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.