



Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Taxes at Distributor Inc.

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Introduction

Distributor Inc. was one of the largest independent chemical distributors in the United States. Distributor purchased chemicals in large quantities from chemical companies, repackaged them in smaller quantities from chemical companies, repackaged them in smaller quantities, and shipped those smaller units to small- and medium- sized businesses that used them. Distributor Inc. did not manufacture any chemicals on its own.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

One chemical that Distributor shipped was freon. The company bought freon from chemical manufacturers and sold it to firms that used it in manufacturing processes. Freon was one of several chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) with wide commercial use. In the mid-1980s, convincing scientific evidence indicated that increased levels of CFCs in the atmosphere were decreasing stratospheric ozone concentrations. The "ozone layer" of the atmosphere absorbs ultraviolet light from the sun. Ultraviolet light has been linked to skin cancer and cataracts in humans, and a number of other health problems in animals and plants. Declining stratospheric ozone concentrations allow more ultraviolet light through, which could lead to costly social effects worldwide.