



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

**Approach to considering isomers
or groups of isomers
of chemicals proposed for listing
in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention**

**Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
(POPRC)**



This publication contains information on the issue of considering isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention. The background section explains why this subject came up during discussions in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) and how it was treated during the meetings of the POPRC and the Conference of the Parties.

The second part of the present document contains the recommended approach for considering isomers or groups of isomers proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention, as decided upon by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting in decision SC-3/9.

Copies of this report are available from:

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I. Background

At its first meeting, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee considered a proposal by Mexico to list lindane in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/8 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/INF/8). Lindane is the trade name for 99% pure gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane, one of three major isomers of hexachlorocyclohexane (“HCH”).

In its proposal, Mexico presented data on the gamma isomer but mentioned as well that the alpha and beta isomers of HCH should also be considered for listing in the annexes because that are produced in significant quantities during the manufacture of lindane. These two isomers were not included in the original nomination.

The Committee discussed the issue of HCH isomers and decided that while its discussions could include the alpha and beta isomers, any decision to propose inclusion of the chemical in the Convention would apply only to the gamma isomer.

After discussions at two subsequent meetings the Committee recommended and the Conference of the Parties agreed on a general approach for considering isomers or groups of isomers. It was noted, however, that the approach had been developed to reflect the specific situation presented by lindane and might not be appropriate in the case of other chemicals. The recommended approach as decided upon in decision SC-3/9 can be found in the Annex 2 to the present note.

In brief, when considering a substance the Committee could identify any important isomers with individual commercial uses and, where appropriate, urge any Party to consider proposing the isomer or isomers for listing. Providing occasional references to other isomers in the original proposal would not be sufficient for their full consideration. If appropriate, the Committee may consider the information related to all the proposed isomers in an integrated risk profile, regardless of when they were proposed and by which Party.

II. Recommendation on an approach for considering isomers or groups of isomers of chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention

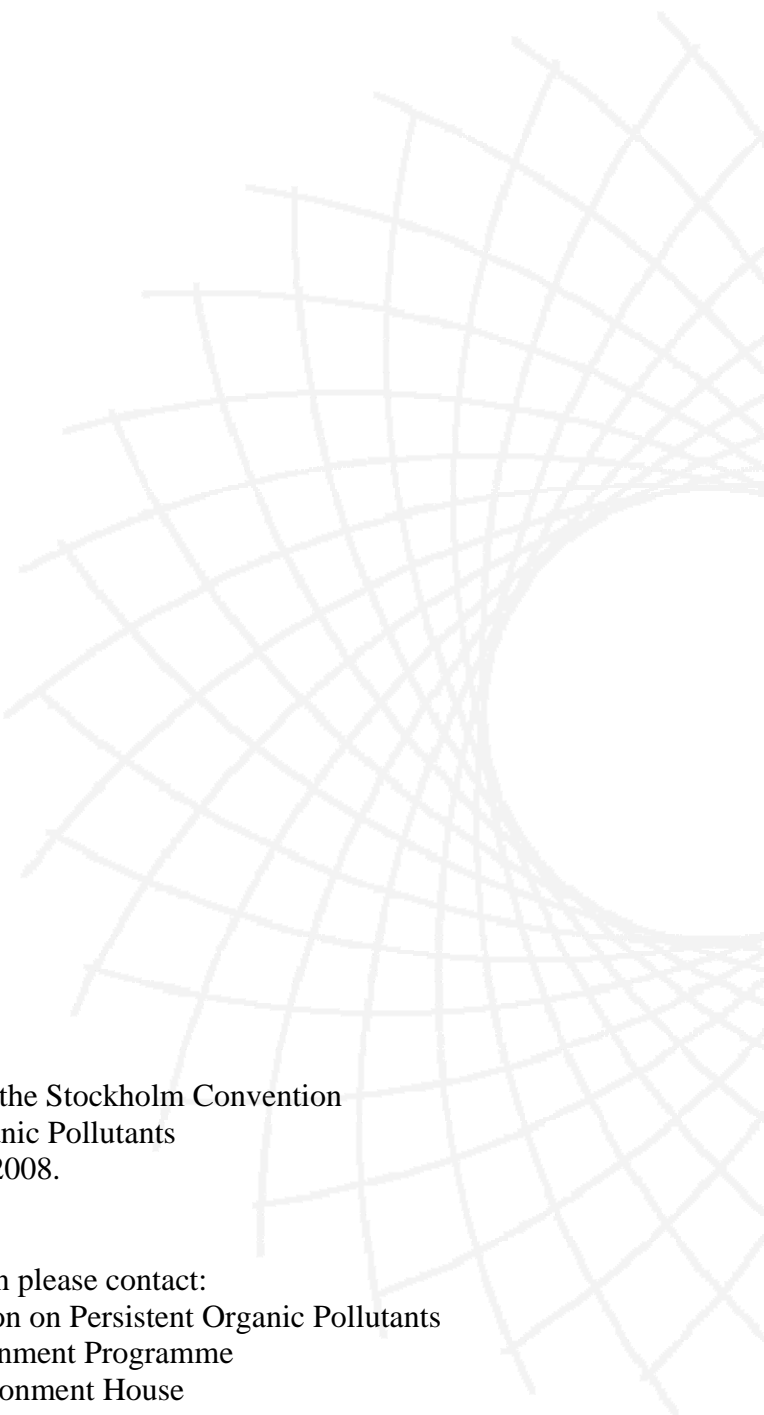
When considering the listing of a chemical or chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, the Committee, as an expert body, could identify any important isomers with individual commercial uses and, where appropriate, urge any Party to consider proposing the isomer or isomers for listing in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 8.

Only a chemical, or chemicals, named in the title of a proposal and described in the introductory text would, however, be evaluated by the Committee, according to the procedures of Article 8 of the Convention. Providing occasional references to other isomers in the proposal would not be sufficient for their full consideration under Article 8.

In order to make a comprehensive recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on a chemical and its isomers, the Committee might decide to advise a proposing Party to submit a proposal for the other relevant isomers and then proceed with its review of the original proposal pursuant to Annex D and according to the rules of procedure of the Committee.

Parties should be aware that they may be assisted by another Party or the Secretariat in the preparation of a proposal of a chemical, and its isomers if they are relevant, in order to facilitate the process of gathering data, presenting information and selecting the most appropriate chemical entity (a single substance, several substances or a mixture of substances) to be proposed.

If appropriate, the Committee may consider the information related to all the proposed isomers in an integrated risk profile, regardless of when they were proposed and by which Party.



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