

Chemicals under review

As of February 2008, the following chemicals are under the review process at the respective steps:

Step 1: New proposal for listing

- Endosulfan

Step 2: Development of risk profile

- Short-chained chlorinated paraffins

Step 3: Development of risk management evaluations

- α -hexachlorocyclohexane
- β -hexachlorocyclohexane
- Commercial octabromodiphenyl ether
- Pentachlorobenzene

Step 4: POPRC recommends to COP to consider listing

- Chlordecone
- Hexabromobiphenyl
- Lindane (γ -hexachlorocyclohexane)
- Pentabromodiphenyl ether
- PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate)

Issues

Isomers?

A proposed chemical may have different forms called isomers. For example, α -HCH, β -HCH, and γ -HCH are all isomers of the parent chemical HCH. γ -HCH (lindane) is commercially used. The POPRC has not made a general decision for isomers. However for HCH, it has decided to review the three isomers separately as POP candidates.

Commercial mixtures?

Commercial products contains mixtures of mainly isomers, congeners, and small amounts of other substances. For commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether (C-PentaBDE), the mixture contains congeners that include substances with substitution of 3 (tri) to 9 (nona) bromine molecules. The main components of the C-PentaBDE mixture are 4 (tetra) and 5 (penta) BDE congeners. It is necessary to clarify the nature of a mixture to ensure the precise identification of all chemicals included.

Precursors?

A proposed chemical may be the result of a transformation of another chemical (precursor) during its production or naturally in the environment. Such precursors may also have to be controlled. In the case of PFOS, even though it has at least 96 precursors, the POPRC has recommended to the COP to list only the perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) along with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts.

For more information contact:

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STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC
POLLUTANTS (POPs)

POPs Review Committee (POPRC)



All about
POPRC



What is POPRC?

The POPRC is a subsidiary body to the Stockholm Convention established for reviewing chemicals proposed for listing in the Convention.

▶ Who are the members?

The POPRC consists of 31 government-designated experts in areas of chemical assessment or management from all UN regions.

▶ How does POPRC review chemicals?

The POPRC reviews proposals submitted by Parties to the Convention for listing new chemicals in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention. The step by step process of the review is described in the right page.

▶ What are the roles of Parties and observers?

- 1) Parties may assist other Parties in developing a proposal for listing a chemical.
- 2) Parties and observers are requested to provide information specified in [Annex E](#) and [Annex F](#).
- 3) Parties and observers are invited to provide technical comments and information on the draft risk profile and the draft risk management evaluation prepared by the POPRC.

▶ What happens after POPRC recommends to COP to consider listing a chemical?

- 1) Adoption: by consensus of COP or by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote
- 2) Ratification: Parties automatically ratify without notification
- 3) Entry into force: One year after adoption
- 4) Non-acceptance: Parties not accepting adoption should inform depositary within one year

Note: A country upon becoming a Party can declare desire to have entry into force of any amendment only when it notifies the depositary of ratification of that amendment.

Process to assess candidate POPs

Step 1. New proposal for listing

Any party may submit a proposal to the Secretariat for listing a chemical with information specified in [Annex D](#). The Secretariat forwards the proposal to the POPRC.

Screening

The POPRC examines the proposal and applies the screening criteria specified in [Annex D](#).

Step 2. Development of a risk profile

If the POPRC decides that the screening criteria have been fulfilled, the POPRC develops a risk profile based on information specified in [Annex E](#) provided by Parties and observers.

Purpose of the risk profile:

To evaluate whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects, such that global action is warranted.

Step 3. Development of a risk management evaluation

If the POPRC decides on the basis of the risk profile that the proposal shall proceed, the POPRC develops a risk management evaluation based on socio-economic information specified in [Annex F](#) provided by Parties and observers.

Purpose of the risk management evaluation:

To analyze possible control measures for the chemical, encompassing the full range of options including management and elimination.

Step 4. Recommendation to the COP

The POPRC recommends to the Conference of the Parties to consider listing the chemical and specifying its related control measures in Annex A, B, and/or C.

Note: For any proposal set aside by the POPRC, the submitting Party may challenge the decision and the COP shall consider whether to proceed with the proposal.

Annex D

(Information requirements and screening criteria)
PROVIDED BY THE SUBMITTING PARTY

- ▶ Chemical identity
- ▶ Persistence
- ▶ Bio-accumulation
- ▶ Potential for long-range environmental transport
- ▶ Adverse effects

Annex E

(Information requirements for the risk profile)
PROVIDED BY ALL PARTIES AND OBSERVERS

- ▶ Production, use, and releases
- ▶ Hazard assessment
- ▶ Environmental fate
- ▶ Monitoring data
- ▶ Exposure and bio-availability
- ▶ Risk evaluations
- ▶ International conventions

Annex F

(Information on socio-economic considerations)
PROVIDED BY ALL PARTIES AND OBSERVERS

- ▶ Efficacy, efficiency of possible control measures
- ▶ Alternatives (products and processes)
- ▶ Positive and/or negative impacts on society
- ▶ Waste and disposal implications
- ▶ Access to information and public education
- ▶ Status of control and monitoring capacity
- ▶ National or regional control actions