UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

اتفاقية استكهولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة • 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 • Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes • Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях

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To:	Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points Stockholm Convention National Focal Points	**Date:**	28 October 2009
CC:	Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva	**File:**	HBCD
From:	Donald Cooper Executive Secretary Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants		

Subject: **Invitation to submit information specified in Annex E of the Stockholm Convention on hexabromocyclododecane to the POPs Review Committee**

The fifth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention took place on 12-16 October 2009, in Geneva. The report of the meeting will be available at the Committee's website: http://www.pops.int/poprc/.

The Committee had before it a proposal submitted by Norway for listing hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) in Annex A, B and/or C of the Convention.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee examined the proposal and applied the screening criteria in Annex D of the Convention in a flexible and transparent way. The Committee decided that the screening criteria had been fulfilled for hexabromocyclododecane and that further work should therefore be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The next step in the process is to prepare a risk profile for hexabromocyclododecane, as noted in Annex E, "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". The risk profile shall further evaluate and elaborate on the information referred to in Annex D and include, as far as possible, the information listed in Annex E. An outline of the risk profile has been developed by the Committee (available at http://www.pops.int/poprc/). As provided for by the Convention, the risk profile will take into account information to be submitted by Parties and observers.

What information is required?

You are invited to submit information specified in **Annex E** according to the guidance provided in this letter.

The POPs Review Committee needs information on hexabromocyclododecane that is supplementary to the information provided already in the proposal for inclusion in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention and supplementary to the information brought forward during the evaluation of the screening criteria by the Committee. The proposal and the evaluation are available at the Convention web site (http://www.pops.int/porpc/).

How to submit information?

A form with a general guidance and explanatory notes developed by the Committee is contained in the annex to this letter to facilitate the submission of information. The form is also available on the Convention's website in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Where feasible, please complete the form and give precise references for the data sources. Without the exact source of the information, the Committee might not be able to use it. If the information is not readily available in the public literature, you may consider attaching the original source of the information to the submission.

Concerning the submission of confidential information, please note that the code of practice for the treatment of confidential information in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee adopted in decision SC-3/9 by the Conference of the Parties is available on the Convention's website.

We would be grateful to receive your submission **in English no later than 8 January 2010.** Information in other United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian) should be submitted by 17 December 2009.

The information should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, preferably by e-mail:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPs Review Committee
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 917 8098
E-mail: ssc@pops.int

If you have any questions regarding this request or you would like to receive hard copies of the documents from the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane (e-mail: fouane@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8161) or Ms. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kohno@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Annex

I. General guidance on submission of information specified in Annex E

A. Procedure

1. In accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, a Party may submit a proposal for listing a chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee examines the proposal and applies the screening criteria specified in Annex D to the Convention. The Committee's evaluation of the chemical against the criteria of Annex D is set out in an annex to the report of the meeting of the Committee at which it is undertaken. The meeting report is made available on the Convention's website (www.pops.int).

2. When the Committee is satisfied that the screening criteria set out in Annex D have been fulfilled, it invites Parties and observers to submit the information specified in Annex E of the Convention. The Committee then prepares a draft risk profile based on the submitted information. The draft risk profile is set out in an addendum to the report of the meeting at which it is adopted by the Committee and is made available on the Convention's website (www.pops.int).

B. How to submit information

3. Annex E information may be submitted to the Secretariat using a form provided by the Committee. The form may be obtained from the Convention focal points and from the Convention website. It is preferable that Annex E information be submitted in electronic format and in English; information may be submitted, however, in the other official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) and in hard copy. Please note that if you are completing the form electronically, the size of the boxes will adjust to the amount of text inserted and, thus, a complete form may be longer than the current number of pages. If you are completing a paper hard copy of the form, please include additional pages as required. The deadline for submitting information is indicated in the letter from the secretariat inviting Parties and observers to provide information.

C. Reminders to those submitting information

4. Parties and observers providing Annex E information should do so in a concise manner with clear and precise references. If the information on a specific item is not available, please so indicate. The information does not have to be national in nature; information from international source may be cited.

5. If possible and relevant, provide additional information to support the Committee's scientific considerations in preparing the risk profile such as study methods, tissue concentrations for comparative purposes and citations including original copies of papers that are not readily available in the public domain. Information which is not peer-reviewed may still be useful for the Committee.

6. The explanatory notes under each item have been developed by the Committee to guide and assist submissions; they have no legal status.

D. Guidance for information collection

7. A guidance document entitled "Handbook for effective participation in the work of the POPs Review Committee" outlines the methodology for the identification and compilation of information required by the Committee. The handbook is available on the Convention website and hard copies may be obtained upon request to the Secretariat.

8. It is suggested that each Party establish an ad hoc working group, perhaps building on the committee established to develop the Party's national implementation plan, to assist the national focal point to collect and submit relevant information.

9. Other potential sources of information are listed below:

(a) National expertise (e.g., universities, research centres, non-governmental organizations, trade unions);

(b) Industries (e.g. producers, importers, suppliers, downstream users);

(c) International literature;

(d) Chemicals databases

II. Form for submission of information specified in Annex E of the Stockholm Convention pursuant to Article 8 of the Convention

Introductory information	
Name of the submitting Party/observer	
Contact details (name, telephone, e-mail) of the submitting Party/observer	
Chemical name (as used by the POPs Review Committee)	**Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)**
Date of submission	

(a) Sources, including as appropriate (provide summary information and relevant references)	
(i) Production data:	
Quantity	
Location	
Other	
(ii) Uses	
(iii) Releases:	
Discharges	
Losses	
Emissions	
Other	

Explanatory note:

10. Indicate units for all data.

11. Information on imports, exports and existing stockpiles could also be included under item (i) Production data: Other. Information on uses could include uses for agriculture (e.g., pesticides), for public health and for industrial purposes and uses by the informal sector.

(b) Hazard assessment for endpoints of concern, including consideration of toxicological interactions involving multiple chemicals (provide summary information and relevant references)

Explanatory note:

12. Information on endpoints of concern should cover, in particular, experimental data concerning human toxicity and ecotoxicity (i.e., toxicity for terrestrial, telluric, aquatic and benthic fauna) and any information on toxicological interactions involving multiple chemicals. Data on contamination of foodstuffs, water, soil or sediment may be entered in part (d) below.

(c) Environmental fate (provide summary information and relevant references)	
Chemical/physical properties	
Persistence	
How are chemical/physical properties and persistence linked to environmental transport, transfer within and between environmental compartments, degradation and transformation to other chemicals?	
Bio-concentration or bio-accumulation factor, based on measured values (unless monitoring data are judged to meet this need)	

Explanatory note:

13. Information on potential for long-range transport could include the results of modelling of long-range environmental transport.

(d) Monitoring data (provide summary information and relevant references)

Explanatory note:

14. Provide monitoring data, if possible, with an indication of the quality of the data or its degree of reliability, trend data and additional data on the criteria in Annex D, particularly persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range environmental transport and exposure.

15. Environmental monitoring data and exposure data in various compartments or media could include data from ambient air, maternal milk, human blood, biota, food products, water, soil, sediments, waste, effluents, etc.

(e) Exposure in local areas (provide summary information and relevant references)	
General	
As a result of long-range environmental transport	
Information regarding bio-availability	

Explanatory note:

16. Information on exposure in local areas could include the following:

(a) General: Data on exposure in local areas, including data on human health and wild fauna and flora, data on occupational exposure, etc;

(b) As a result of long-range environmental transport: Data concerning exposure in areas far from the sources of production or use of a chemical, experimental data or modelling results indicating possible long-range transport, etc;

(c) Information regarding bio-availability: Studies describing how the chemical is absorbed by humans and other animals, concentrations in biological samples, half-life, etc.

(f) National and international risk evaluations, assessments or profiles and labelling information and hazard classifications, as available (provide summary information and relevant references)

Explanatory note:

17. Information on national and international risk evaluations could include the following:

(a) Rationale for the regulation of toxic chemical substances such as assessment information;

(b) Information and hazard classifications;

(c) National and international risk evaluations prepared by governmental and inter-governmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations and non-governmental organizations. The government and national stakeholders such as the academic community, civil society and others in the private sector may provide the data required.

(g) Status of the chemical under international conventions

Explanatory note:

18. Information need not be provided on the most well known instruments. A list of those instruments may be found in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.1/INF/10.