

SC-7/5: Evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision SC-7/1, in which it notes, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, that as there are no longer any parties registered for the specific exemptions for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations may be made with regard to them,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride carried out by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee¹ and the report by the Secretariat² on the evaluation of the information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

2. *Takes note* of the information provided by parties on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2³ and the report by the Secretariat⁴ on the main challenges encountered by parties in implementing the recommendations with regard to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

3. *Concludes* that parties may need to continue to produce and/or use perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for acceptable purposes as provided in Annex B to the Convention and consequently need to notify the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use those chemicals for those purposes;

4. *Encourages* parties to consider, on the basis of information and the availability of alternatives, withdrawing their names from the register of acceptable purposes for production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, noting, however, that substitution under “acceptable purposes” with regard to fire-fighting foam may be considered after carrying out techno-economical viability assessment and ensuring functionality in various geo-climatic conditions;

5. *Congratulates* all parties that have eliminated the need for specific exemptions and all parties that have ratified the amendment to Annex B to the Stockholm Convention listing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in that annex;⁵

6. *Requests*, with a view to avoiding duplication, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices to exchange information, consult and consider each other’s work on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride when the Committee undertakes the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

7. *Decides* to amend the schedule for the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4 by adopting the schedule set out in the annex to the present decision and decides to undertake the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride at its ninth meeting;

8. *Encourages* parties that have registered or will register for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for acceptable purposes by notifying the Secretariat in accordance with Annex B to the Convention to take measures necessary to ensure that articles containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/11.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/12.

⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8, annex IV.

⁵ Decision SC-4/17.

perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride that are allowed to be produced and used can be easily identified by labelling or other means throughout their life cycles;

9. *Reminds* parties that paragraph 4 (c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention encourages parties, within their capabilities, to promote research on and the development of safe alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, and invites parties to submit information on such research and development in the process of information collection for the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To revise the format for the collection of information on alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee and comments made by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, and to use the format as so revised for the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) To continue to support the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4 to enable the Conference of the Parties to undertake the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention and to support parties, subject to the availability of resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit information required for the process;

(c) To further promote the exchange of information, including information provided by parties and others, on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals, and support parties, subject to the availability of resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit information required for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

(d) To prepare a document providing possible actions by the Conference of the Parties, should the Conference conclude that there is no continued need for the various acceptable purposes for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride listed in Annex B, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

11. *Invites* parties to transmit to the Secretariat no later than eight months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention, for consideration and further discussion by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the information provided by parties pursuant to paragraph 11 above and to make it available on the Stockholm Convention website no later than six months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision SC-7/5

Revised schedule for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant

1. The following standard schedule is applied in order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the information on which to base its evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, which is to take place every four years.

2. The year in which a given evaluation is to take place is referred to as "year 4". The year before the year of the evaluation is referred to as "year 3" and the year two years before the year of the evaluation is referred to as "year 2". For example, in the case of the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2019, year 2 refers to 2017, year 3 refers to 2018 and year 4 refers to 2019.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timing</i>
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee develops terms of reference for the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE on the basis of information specified in paragraph 5 (c) of part III of Annex B.	October, year 2
The Secretariat invites parties to submit information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE.	November, year 2
Deadline for submission of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE	February, year 3
The Secretariat prepares a preliminary report on the assessment of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE and submits it to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.	June, year 3
Parties submit information on PFOS in the process of reporting under Article 15 and other information specified in paragraph 5 (d) of part III of Annex B.	August, year 3 (in accordance with the decision on national reporting)
The Secretariat prepares a draft report for the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE and submits it to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.	September, year 3
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee completes the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSE for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and provides comments on the draft report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE prepared by the Secretariat.	October, year 3
The Secretariat finalizes the report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.	February, year 4
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties.	May, year 4