



POPs Chemicals

Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)

CAS No. 608-93-5

Full Name: Pentachlorobenzene

Synonyms: 1,2,3,4,5-pentachlorobenzene; pentachlorobenzene; PeCB; QCB; quintochlorobenzene

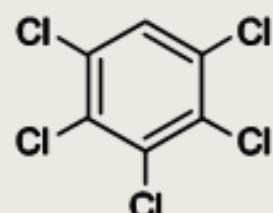
Uses: PeCB was used in PCB products, in dyestuff carriers, as a fungicide, a flame retardant and as a chemical intermediate e.g. previously for the production of quintozene. PeCB might still be used as an intermediate. PeCB is also produced unintentionally during combustion, thermal and industrial processes. It also present as impurities in products such as solvents or pesticides.

Stockholm Convention: PeCB is listed in Annex A (elimination) without specific exemptions and in Annex C (Unintentional production) to the Stockholm Convention (decision SC-4/16). Parties must take measures to eliminate the production and use of PeCB and also take measures to reduce the unintentional releases of PeCB.

Hazards and risks to human health and the environment:

PeCB is persistent in the environment and is bioaccumulative. The small spatial variability in the ranges of air concentrations across the Northern Hemisphere indicates that PeCB has a very long atmospheric residence time and is widely distributed in the global hemisphere. There are monitoring data from remote areas, backed up by modelling results that suggest that PeCB can be transported over long distances. PeCB is moderately toxic to humans, but is very toxic to aquatic organisms.

As a result of the long range transport of PeCB, neither a single country nor a group of countries alone can abate the pollution caused by this substance. Unintentional release of PeCB as a byproduct of incomplete combustion appears to be the largest current source. Measures to reduce these releases can only be taken at a global scale.



Reference

1. Risk profile on pentachlorobenzene. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee 2007; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.7
2. Risk management evaluation for pentachlorobenzene. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee 2008; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.2



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