



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



To: Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Stockholm Convention National Focal Points

Date: 15 December 2007

From: Donald Cooper
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants

File: KI/POPRC rcm

Subject: Communication of the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Conference of the Parties to consider listing hexabromobiphenyl in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, thereby amending the Annex

The third meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Stockholm Convention took place on 19-23 November 2007 in Geneva. The report of the meeting will soon be available at the Convention web site: <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/poprc.htm>

At its third meeting, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had before it the risk profiles prepared in accordance with Annex E of the Convention and the risk management evaluations prepared in accordance with Annex F of Convention for hexabromobiphenyl.

The Committee completed its review of the available documents, considered the possible control measures, the available social and economic information, and comments and information submitted by Parties and observers relating to the considerations specified in Annex F. The Committee decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention, that the Conference consider **listing hexabromobiphenyl in Annex A of the Convention**.

The Committee assessed and agreed on the rationale for a class approach on all hexabrominated biphenyls, prepared the risk management evaluation for hexabromobiphenyl and concluded that although hexabromobiphenyl is not known to be produced or used anymore, it is important to prevent its re-introduction into commerce and use. The Committee further concluded that listing hexabromobiphenyl in Annex A without any specific exemptions was feasible as there were no identified remaining production or uses. The Committee recommended that implementation efforts focus on identifying and managing obsolete stockpiles and wastes containing hexabromobiphenyl and on establishing effective measures for preventing future production and use.

Paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention states that, in the event that the Committee makes a recommendation on whether a chemical should be considered by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C, "the Conference of the Parties, taking due account of the recommendations of the Committee, including any scientific uncertainty, shall decide, in a precautionary manner, whether to list the chemical, and specify its related control measures, in Annexes A, B and/or C". If the Conference of the Parties decides to list the chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C, the respective Annex or Annexes will be amended in accordance with Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention. Amendments to Annexes A, B and/or C enter into force in accordance with paragraph 3 and 4 of Article 22 and paragraph 4 of Article 25.

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Please note that the text of any proposed amendment to the convention must be communicated to Parties at least 6 months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.

Parties are therefore invited to be prepared to discuss the listing of hexabromobiphenyl in Annex A of the Convention as recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. Parties are reminded that, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, representatives of Parties wishing to take part in the decision-making process at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties must be accredited with credentials issued either by a head of State or Government, a minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, the competent authority of that organization.

The annex to the present letter provides a summary of the implications for Parties of listing a chemical in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention, including the actions that Parties must take upon the entry into force of the amendment in listing the chemical.

Parties are invited to notify the Secretariat by **30 June 2008** of any relevant issue that they may wish to raise at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat will provide the Conference of the Parties a compilation of the issues submitted. Submissions should be sent to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, preferably by e-mail (ssc@pops.int), or by regular mail to:

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Att: POPs Review Committee
Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane
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If you have any further questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane (e-mail: fouane@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8161).

Attachment