



## 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

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

**Subject:** **Communication of the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Conference of the Parties to consider listing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in Annex A or B of the Stockholm Convention, thereby amending the Annex**

The third meeting of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee 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 perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

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 and specifying the related control measures of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No: 1763 23 1), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS-No: 307-35-7) in Annex A or B of the Convention and specifying the related control measures.**

The Committee proposed elements of a risk reduction strategy for PFOS (as attached) and invited Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat any additional information specified in Annex F and, in particular, information on manufacturing (current and estimated).

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 perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in Annex A or B 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](mailto:ssc@pops.int)), or by regular mail to:

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

If you have any further questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Fatoumata Keita Ouane (e-mail: [fouane@pops.int](mailto:fouane@pops.int); telephone +41 22 917 8161).

Attachment

## Elements of a risk reduction strategy proposed by the Committee and additional information need for perfluorooctane sulfonate:

For the following uses which have been used historically in the US, Canada and the EU, alternatives are available and in use: fire fighting foams; carpets; leather/apparel; textiles/upholstery; paper and packaging; coatings and coating additives; industrial and household cleaning products; and pesticides and insecticides

Based on the information supplied to the Committee, the availability of alternatives is uncertain for some specific uses. Therefore, there is a need for certain critical uses over the foreseeable future. To allow for this, one could, based on the feasibility of substitution for such use and the time frame of substitution, introduce specific exemptions and/or acceptable purposes for production as required to produce other chemical substances only for the uses as described below and except for the production of PFOS acid, its salts and PFOSF as an intermediate to produce other chemical substances for those uses. One could also introduce specific exemptions or acceptable purposes for uses for which alternatives may be available. Based on the risk management evaluation critical uses would include the following: photoresists or anti reflective coatings for photolithography processes; photo mask rendering process; photo imaging; hydraulic fluids in aviation; and, certain medical devices. Other uses for which alternatives may be available include: ant baits for control of leaf-cutting ants; metal plating; fire fighting foam; and electric and electronic parts. The conditions for the use of PFOS-related substances could be further described in a new Part III to Annex A or B. Elements in such a Part III could include:

- that each Party should with regard to the ultimate elimination of the use of the substance for the critical uses take action in accordance with the set priorities e.g.:
- phasing out as a priority the uses for which alternatives may be available but would need to be phased in; i.e. metal plating, fire fighting foams, electric and electronic parts and the use of the substance for the production of ant baits for the control of leaf-cutting ants;
- each Party using the substance developing and implementing an action plan as part of the implementation plan specified in Article 7, which could include development of regulatory and other mechanisms to ensure that substance use is restricted to the specific exemptions listed above and implementation of suitable alternative products, methods and strategies for all exempted uses;
- each Party using the substance providing a report every five years on progress in its elimination and submitting it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to Article 15;
- These reports could be considered by the Conference of the Parties in its reviews relating to progress towards elimination of the substance at five year intervals;
- the Conference of the Parties could also, as soon as new information on safer alternative substances or technologies become available review the specific exemptions or acceptable purposes to ensure that the uses of the substance are phased out as soon as the use of safer alternatives is technically and economically feasible;
- the Parties could, within their capabilities, promote research and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products, methods and strategies for Parties using the substance.
- Parties that use the substance could be requested to take into account, as appropriate, the relevant parts of the general guidance on BAT and BEP given in Part V of Annex C.

Consideration should also be given to distinguishing between those uses which do pose a risk of wide dispersion to the environment and those that do not.

The Committee invited Parties and observers to provide additional information on production and uses which the Committee will put in an Annex to the PFOS risk management Evaluation at the next meeting of the Committee. In particular, the Committee is seeking information on manufacturing (current and estimated), other uses and alternatives is requested.

You may provide a free text for submission with clear and precise references for each source of information. Without the exact source of the information, the Committee will not be able to process it accordingly. In relation to the confidentiality of the submitted information, please note that provisional confidentiality arrangements agreed upon by the Committee are available at our website.

We would be most grateful to receive the required information **in English by 30 April 2008**. Information in **any other UN official language** (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian) should be submitted **by 31 March 2008**. In addition, it would be greatly appreciated if you could submit it by email: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int).