

**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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25 October 2010

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

The sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention took place on 11-15 October 2010, 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 risk profile prepared in accordance with Annex E to the Convention for hexabromocyclododecane. Hexabromocyclododecane was previously proposed by Norway for addition to Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention, and the Committee had decided at its fifth meeting that the screening criteria in Annex D to the Convention had been fulfilled.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee examined the risk profile and decided that hexabromocyclododecane 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 next step in the process is to prepare a risk management evaluation for hexabromocyclododecane. An outline of the risk management evaluation has been developed by the Committee (available at <http://www.pops.int/poprc/>). The Convention provides that the risk management evaluation will include an analysis of the possible control measures, as well as the socio-economic considerations, and will take into account information to be submitted by the Parties and observers relating to the considerations specified in Annex F.

The Committee shall recommend whether the chemical should be considered by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annex A (elimination), Annex B (restriction), and/or Annex C (unintentional production) of the Convention, based on the risk profile and the risk management evaluation. The possible control measures may include prohibition or severe restriction of production and use. In its deliberation on the control measures, the Committee will also consider the possible needs for exemptions for use and production. Therefore, your submission of accurate and high quality information is very important for the Committee's evaluation.

What information is required?

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

The POPs Review Committee needs information that is supplementary to the information provided during previous stages in the review process (i.e., information relevant to Annex D and E). The proposals, evaluations and risk profiles are available at the Convention's web site.

To: Stockholm Convention official contact points**Stockholm Convention national focal points****Cc: Representatives of permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

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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. You may also provide a free text submission.

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 2011**. Information in other United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian) should be submitted by 17 December 2010.

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; kohno@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. Kei Ohno (e-mail: kohno@pops.int; telephone +41 22 917 8201).

Yours sincerely,



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

Annex

General guidance on submission of information specified in Annex F

A. Procedure

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, if the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee decides on the basis of a chemical's risk profile that 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, consideration of the proposal for listing the chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C proceeds to the next step.
2. The Committee at that point invites Parties and observers to submit information relating to the social and economic considerations specified in Annex F of the Convention. Based on the submitted information, the Committee prepares a draft risk management evaluation that includes an analysis of possible control measures for the chemical.

B. How to submit information

3. Annex F 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 F information be submitted in electronic format 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 F information should provide it in a concise manner with clear and precise references. If information on a specific item is not available, please so indicate. The information does not have to be national in nature; information from international sources may be cited.
5. If possible and relevant provide additional information to support the Committee's scientific considerations in preparing the risk management evaluation 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 Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to guide and assist submissions; they have no legal status.

D. Possible control measures under the Stockholm Convention

7. The possible control measures under the Stockholm Convention for a given chemical are as follows:
 - (a) **Listing of the chemical in Annex A:** This would mean elimination of the production, use, export and import of the chemical. The Conference of the Parties might decide to provide for specific exemptions or to restrict the general exemptions laid down in paragraph 5 of Article 3 and notes (i)–(iii) of Annex I. It might also add provisions that would apply specifically to the chemical (as is currently done for PCBs in Part II of Annex A). These additional provisions can cover a wide range of control measures such as restriction of certain uses, labelling requirements, waste management requirements or provision of information to users along with a requirement to report on progress toward elimination at certain intervals;
 - (b) **Listing of the chemical in Annex B:** This would mean restriction of the production, use, export and import of the chemical. If it decides to list the chemical in Annex B the Conference of the Parties will also specify acceptable purposes for the chemical in Annex B. It might also decide to provide for specific exemptions or to restrict the general exemptions laid down in paragraph 5 of Article 3 and notes (i)–(iii) of Annex II. It might also add provisions that would apply specifically to the chemical (as is currently done for DDT in Part II of Annex B). These additional provisions can include the establishment of a register, a requirement to notify the Secretariat or other intergovernmental organizations regarding intent to use the substance, and a requirement for reporting on quantities used

and conditions of use. Such provisions may also require the development and implementation of an action plan that includes the implementation of suitable alternatives and covers a wide range of control measures such as labelling or the provision of information to users;

(c) **Listing of the chemical in Annex C:** This Annex is applicable only to unintentionally produced chemicals. Listing in Annex C would mean that the chemical would become subject to measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate the unintentional formation and release of the chemical. The Conference of the Parties might also include any further amendments of Annex C that would be necessary to address the chemical (e.g., additional source categories, additional process control methods or additional pollution prevention options);

(d) Listing of the chemical in Annexes A, B and/or C also make the chemical subject to the **control provisions of Article 6 on stockpiles and waste**. These provisions include obligations to develop strategies for identifying products and articles in use that contain the chemical; to identify, to the extent practicable, stockpiles and waste; to manage such stockpiles safely; and to ensure that wastes are disposed of in such a way that the persistent organic pollutant content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed.

8. It should be noted that the same chemical can be listed in Annexes A, B and C.

E. Guidance for information collection

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

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

11. Most of the information on use patterns, alternatives, production volumes, regulations and other measures taken to reduce releases could be provided by the Governments and by non-governmental organizations, including manufacturers and users from the industrial sector. Some information can be found in official Government documents or provided by non-governmental organizations such as industrial sectors while other information may be found in the so-called grey literature. Grey literature refers to literature that is not available through publishers or conventional bibliographic sources such as databases or indexes. Examples of grey literature include technical reports, fact sheets, patents, government documents, technical documents and unpublished works.

12. To collect relevant information from various sectors a national survey could be carried out using questionnaires. A literature review on possible control measures may also be useful.

13. Other potential sources of information are listed below:

- (a) International literature;
 - (b) Databases;
 - (c) Government sources, legislation;
 - (d) National expertise (e.g., universities, institutes/research centres, non-governmental organizations, trade unions);
 - (e) Industries (e.g., producers, importers, suppliers, users).
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