

Format for submitting pursuant to Article 8 of the Stockholm Convention the information specified in Annex E of the Convention

Introductory information	
Name of the submitting Party/observer	Switzerland
Contact details (name, telephone, e-mail) of the submitting Party/observer	Federal Office for the Environment Substances, Soil and Biotechnology Division Contact: Bettina Hitzfeld / Georg Karlaganis bettina.hitzfeld@bafu.admin.ch / georg.karlaganis@bafu.admin.ch +41 31 32 31768
Chemical name (as used by the POPS Review Committee (POPRC))	Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane
Date of submission	7 February 2007

(a) Sources, including as appropriate (provide summary information and relevant references)	
(i) Production data:	No production
Quantity	
Location	
Other	
(ii) Uses	The only allowed use of any hexachlorocyclohexane isomer is gamma hexachlorocyclohexane (lindane) for medicinal purpose (see (f)).
(iii) Releases:	No known releases
Discharges	
Losses	
Emissions	
Other	

(b) Hazard assessment for endpoints of concern, including consideration of toxicological interactions involving multiple chemicals (provide summary information and relevant references)

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(c) Environmental fate (provide summary information and relevant references)	
Chemical/physical properties	
Persistence	
How are chemical/physical properties and persistence linked to environmental transport, transfer within and between environmental compartments, degradation and transformation to other chemicals?	
Bio-concentration or bio-accumulation factor, based on measured values (unless monitoring data are judged to meet this need)	

(d) Monitoring data (provide summary information and relevant references)**Passive biomonitoring using lichen (*Parmelia sulcata*) in Switzerland**

See also file: HCHs_Lichen study 2002 (map, graphical representation of values)

µg/kg dry substance (mean ± SD)

Location	α-HCH
Zurich (city)	0.6 ± 0.1
Lucerne (city)	1.6 ± 0.5
Lugano (city)	0.8 ± 0.2
St. Gallen (city)	2.5 ± 1.0
Duebendorf (urban agglomeration)	1.2 ± 0.2
Basel (urban agglomeration)	1.3 ± 0.4
Wallisellen (urban agglomeration)	1.5 ± 0.4
Wil (small town)	0.9 ± 0.5
Rorschach (small town)	4.0 ± 3.8
Gossau (small town)	0.6 ± 0.3
Thörishaus (industry)	1.6 ± 0.6
Berne (industry)	0.8 ± 0.6
Zurich-North (industry)	0.7 ± 0.3
Erstfeld (traffic)	1.5 ± 1.1
Piotta (traffic)	1.0 ± 0.3
Schoenbuehl-Grauholz (traffic)	2.0 ± 0.7
Haerkingen (traffic)	1.4 ± 1.1
Haerkingen (away from traffic)	0.9 ± 0.3
Thoerishaus-West (traffic)	1.8 ± 2.2
Taenikon (rural)	1.2 ± 0.8
Payerne (rural)	1.1 ± 0.3
Hemmental (rural)	3.8 ± 2.9
Forst-Neuenegg (background)	0.5 ± 0.2
Hagen-Randen (background)	1.1 ± 0.3
Davos (alpine background)	1.1 ± 0.5

Reference: R. Herzig & C. Bieri: Persistente organische Luftschadstoffe (POPs) in der Schweiz. Umwelt-Materialien Nr. 146 Luft (2002). Publ.: Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (now Federal Office for the Environment). German, English summary.

http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/index.html?action=show_publ&lang=D&id_thema=18&series=UM&nr_publ=146

(e) Exposure in local areas (provide summary information and relevant references)

- general
- as a result of long-range environmental transport
- information regarding bio-availability

(f) National and international risk evaluations, assessments or profiles and labelling information and hazard classifications, as available (provide summary information and relevant references)**Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane is prohibited in Switzerland**

See also: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/chemikalien/01410/01411/index.html?lang=en>

The following is an excerpt from the:

Ordinance on Risk Reduction related to the use of certain particularly dangerous substances, preparations and articles (Ordinance on Risk Reduction related to Chemical Products (ORRChem) of 18 May 2005

Annex 1.1

(Art. 3)

Halogenated organic compounds**1 Prohibitions****1.1 Substances and preparations**

It is prohibited to manufacture, place on the market, import in a private capacity, or use:

- a. halogenated organic compounds within the meaning of section 3;
- b. substances and preparations that contain halogenated organic compounds within the meaning of section 3 that are not merely unavoidable impurities.

3 List of prohibited halogenated organic compounds**a. *Aliphatic monocyclic systems***

- hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH, all isomers), with the exception of gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane (lindane, CAS no.15 58-89-9) in medicinal products.

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(g) Status of the chemical under international conventions