



The Rotterdam Convention

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ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

On the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade

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Overview



1. Introduction to the Rotterdam Convention
2. Industrial chemicals management
 - a) Framework for the sound management
 - b) Technical assistance activities



1. Rotterdam Convention - Objective



To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use



Rotterdam Convention - Scope



Chemicals *banned or severely restricted* by Parties to protect human health or the environment

Severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF)
- causing problems under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition



Rotterdam Convention – Key provisions



PIC procedure - Provides a national decision making process on import of hazardous chemicals in Annex III and ensures compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties

Information exchange – facilitation of exchange of information on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals



Rotterdam Convention - Benefits



Prevents unwanted trade

PIC procedure legally binding for importing & exporting Parties – shared responsibility, 'levels the playing field', Secretariat facilitates dialogue between trading partners

Early warning system

PIC Circular – global info on notifications of regulatory actions, incidents (SHPF)

Informed decision-making by importing party

DGDs provide basis for decision making process on future imports
Further info PIC Circular, other Parties
Strengthens capacity of Parties to assess risks associated with chemicals



Rotterdam Convention – Benefits(cont.)



Export notification

Exporting Parties have to inform importing Parties
opportunity to seek further info from exporting Party
Exporting Parties avoid sending unwanted chemicals to
Parties

Information accompanying export

Improved labeling and provision of safety data sheets assist
importing countries to understand and manage potential risks
– consistent with obligations under GHS



- **Network of DNAs**

Access to DNAs in other countries with similar conditions
Opportunities to exchange experience & info re
implementation of RC

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance to develop the infrastructure and
capacity required to implement the Convention
Parties with more advanced systems to regulate
chemicals provide technical assistance to other Parties



Rotterdam Convention – Annex III



Currently 40 chemicals listed*

29 pesticides (e.g. DDT, chlordane, lindane, parathion, monocrotophos, ethylene oxide, dieldrin....) , 4 of which are SHPFs (e.g. liquid formulations of methamidophos, phosphamidon)

11 industrial chemicals (e.g. PCBs, tetramethyl lead, polybrominated biphenyls ...)

*Note: not a ban!



Rotterdam Convention – Key players



- Designated National Authorities (DNAs)
- Conference of the Parties (COPs)
- Chemical Review Committee (CRC)
- Secretariat (UNEP & FAO)



Rotterdam Convention – COP 5



Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in Geneva from 20-24 June 2011.

Discussion on inclusion of:

Pesticides - endosulfan, alachlor, aldicarb
Industrial chemicals - chrysotile asbestos

Industrial chemicals

- PFOS and its salts
 - (acid, 4 salts and the precursor – PFOS-F)
- Pentabromodiphenyl ether
 - (2 congeners – tetra and penta)
- Octabromodiphenyl ether
 - (5 congeners – hexa, hepta, octa, nona & deca)

Pesticides

- Endosulfan
- Azinphos-methyl

SHPF

- Gramoxone super- paraquat EC



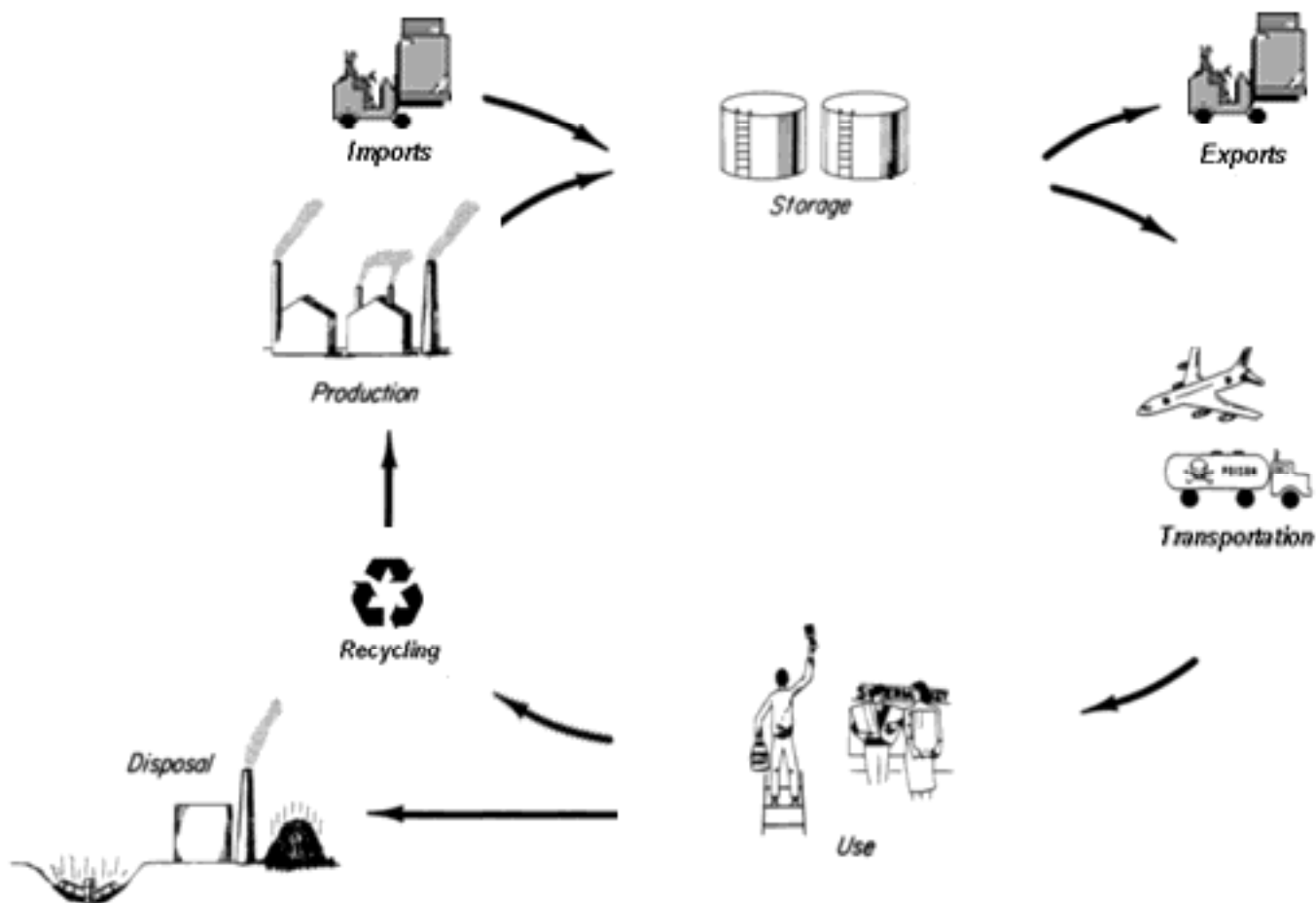
2. Industrial chemicals management



Need for a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals:

- Lack of information on chemicals production, import, use, exposure and effects on human health & environment
- Coordination of data collection and storage necessary
- Problems with national coordination, priority setting
- Need to involve industry – shared responsibility
- Need to implement the GHS
- Lack of integrated life cycle chemicals legislation

Life cycle of chemicals



from UNITAR national profile guidance document



Industrial chemicals management - What is required?



- Primary responsibility of industry - polluter pays
- Address full life cycle of chemicals
- Responsibility of other actors – complete value chain
- Prevention (action/reaction), precaution
- Cooperation/coordination on national and international level (synergies)
- Use available information, capacities (resources) and capabilities (know how) effectively
- An efficient and enforceable framework



Industrial chemicals management - framework



- Scope - Industrial chemicals: new and existing chemicals, exemptions - low hazard, low risk
- Data collection – GLP data on hazard, effect & exposure, data base for storage and dissemination; info on incidents & accidents
- Assessments - hazard from GHS, risk assessment from RC, SC, Montreal Protocol
- Risk benefit analysis – integration of socio-economic factors
- Risk management decision – bans, restrictions, criteria, priorities



Industrial chemicals management - framework (cont.)



- Forms a basis for an integrated sound management for industrial chemicals - streamlines a mainly sectorial approach in managing industrial chemicals
- Improves coordination and synergies between national actors responsible for the sound management of chemicals and increases efficiency of sound management



Industrial chemicals management - framework (cont.)



- It facilitates implementing international efforts to improve chemicals management like SAICM and the GHS and international legally binding instruments like the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions
- It enables national risk evaluations and assessments, potentially leading to ban or restrict chemicals thus contributing to listing chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention



Industrial chemicals management - implementation



- National strategy, resources, political will, sector buy-in
- Priorities:
 - GHS implementation (for all sectors)
 - Risk assessments for bans/restrictions (RC)
 - Criteria and procedures to identify high concern chemicals (SC)
 - Environmental and work place monitoring
 - Management of major hazardous installations
 - National information system
 - Poison centers



Industrial chemicals management - implementation (cont.)



- New legislation/administrative - provisions for framework and adaptation for related sector legislation
- Building of capacity and capability – national information system, testing, evaluation and monitoring of chemicals, compliance monitoring, enforcement
- Governance - government, industry responsibility (voluntary risk management), education and participation of workers and the public



Industrial chemicals management Technical assistance activities



- Develop practical guidance
 - National management system for industrial chemicals
- - Locating relevant international information
- Support establishment of legislative framework
 - Strengthen capacity to assess and manage risks
 - Improve implementation of the chemical MEAs



Industrial chemicals management Technical assistance activities (cont.)



- Pilot projects established in Jordan and Botswana
- Workshops with all stakeholders
- Raise awareness on hazards & risk of industrial chemicals
- Countries drafted work plans re collection of info required to assess needs (prep for developing frameworks)



Industrial chemicals management Technical assistance activities (cont.)



Need for the following elements was highlighted:

- Legal study for both countries necessary
- Establish national profiles in B & update it in J
- Analysis of content & role of a national framework, relation to existing sector legislation and what it can deliver (legal and institutional frameworks);
- Identify process and methodology for the development and implement of a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals;
- Awareness-raising on economic instruments that could be used to finance the sound management of chemicals;



Industrial chemicals management Technical assistance activities (cont.)



- Second workshop planned
- Priorities set in action plan
- Implementation to achieve a sound framework for management of industrial chemicals
- Another 4 countries to be identified for pilot projects
- Awareness-raising on the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit for Chemicals, plus the OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit and IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in the sound management of chemicals



Industrial chemicals management Technical assistance activities (cont.)



- IOMC developing a toolkit to support developing countries
- Toolkit caters to differing levels of economic development
- Is interactive and user-friendly
- Includes information on hazard identification, risk assessment, preparation of legislation, data collection, risk management, decision-making
- Experiences from pilot projects to feed into toolbox
- Toolbox to be ready by 2013



Industrial chemicals management Forthcoming event



- Global forum on industrial chemicals management – to be held on 1st evening of COP of Rotterdam Convention – June 20, 2011
- All stakeholders to participate
- Topic: Where are we now?



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The PIC Procedure

