

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

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COMMUNICATION

Request for information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

By paragraph 11 of its decision SC-7/5, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting invited Parties to transmit to the Secretariat information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention, for consideration and further discussion by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Paragraph 12 of the same decision requested the Secretariat to compile the information provided by Parties pursuant to paragraph 11 and to make it available on the Stockholm Convention website no later than six months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Accordingly, Parties are invited by this Communication to transmit to the Secretariat:

- i) Information or comments related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention;
- ii) Information on any specific difficulties that they may have identified and/or encountered related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention;
- iii) Any additional information that Parties may wish to transmit in this regard.

Please transmit the abovementioned information and comments to the Secretariat **no later than 30 June 2016**, preferably by email to Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti (Yvonne.ewang@brsmeas.org) and Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall (kei.ohno-woodall@brsmeas.org), or by facsimile (+41 22 917 8098).

The text of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention is attached to the present Communication for ease of reference. Any questions pertaining to this Communication should be addressed to Ms. Yvonne Ewang-Sanvincenti and Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation in transmitting this information to the Secretariat.



To: Official Contact Points to the Stockholm Convention

Cc: National Focal Points of Parties to the Stockholm Convention
Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva
Stockholm Convention Regional Centres

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
Geneva, 11 April 2016

Annex

Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Article 4 Register of specific exemptions

1. A Register is hereby established for the purpose of identifying the Parties that have specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B. It shall not identify Parties that make use of the provisions in Annex A or Annex B that may be exercised by all Parties. The Register shall be maintained by the Secretariat and shall be available to the public.
 2. The Register shall include:
 - (a) A list of the types of specific exemptions reproduced from Annex A and Annex B;
 - (b) A list of the Parties that have a specific exemption listed under Annex A or Annex B; and
 - (c) A list of the expiry dates for each registered specific exemption.
 3. Any State may, on becoming a Party, by means of a notification in writing to the Secretariat, register for one or more types of specific exemptions listed in Annex A or Annex B.
 4. Unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by a Party, or an extension is granted pursuant to paragraph 7, all registrations of specific exemptions shall expire five years after the date of entry into force of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical.
 5. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall decide upon its review process for the entries in the Register.
 6. Prior to a review of an entry in the Register, the Party concerned shall submit a report to the Secretariat justifying its continuing need for registration of that exemption. The report shall be circulated by the Secretariat to all Parties. The review of a registration shall be carried out on the basis of all available information. Thereupon, the Conference of the Parties may make such recommendations to the Party concerned as it deems appropriate.
 7. The Conference of the Parties may, upon request from the Party concerned, decide to extend the expiry date of a specific exemption for a period of up to five years. In making its decision, the Conference of the Parties shall take due account of the special circumstances of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.
 8. A Party may, at any time, withdraw an entry from the Register for a specific exemption upon written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date specified in the notification.
 9. When there are no longer any Parties registered for a particular type of specific exemption, no new registrations may be made with respect to it.
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