

SC-6/7: Work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by parties on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 and of the low rate of response from parties;¹
2. *Invites* parties that have not yet done so to submit information on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, including on any challenges encountered, to the Secretariat no later than six months before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To support parties in undertaking activities to collect and submit such information, within available resources;
 - (b) To prepare a report, based on the information received, highlighting challenges that may be encountered by parties in implementing the recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;
4. *Decides* that the information received, where relevant, should also be taken into consideration in the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties of the progress that parties have made towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and the review of the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals, pursuant to paragraph 2 of part IV and part V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and in the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions, pursuant to paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B to the Convention;
5. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, prepared on the basis of the technical paper² on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals in open applications, as set out in the annex to decision POPRC-8/8, and, based on those recommendations:
 - (a) Encourages parties and observers to implement where appropriate the recommendations that pertain to them;
 - (b) Encourages parties to consider stopping their use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and related chemicals for the applications for which safer alternatives have been identified and are commercially available, which have been identified as follows:
 - (i) Fire-fighting foams;
 - (ii) Insecticides for the control of imported red fire ants and termites;
 - (iii) Decorative metal plating;
 - (iv) Carpets;
 - (v) Leather and apparel;
 - (vi) Textiles and upholstery;
 - (c) *Invites* parties that still use perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals for the control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta spp.* and *Acromyrmex spp.* to undertake studies, including pilot projects, to obtain peer-reviewed information on the feasibility of using alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/7.

² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/17/Rev.1.

acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals within an integrated pest management approach and to submit any results to the Secretariat;

(d) Requests the Committee:

- (i) To revise, subject to the availability of resources, the guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals³ to incorporate the information contained in the technical paper on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals in open applications and any other pertinent information;
- (ii) To further evaluate alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals identified in the technical paper as being of potential concern with regard to their effects on health and the environment in accordance with the process for the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions provided in decision SC-6/4;

(e) Requests the Secretariat to broadly disseminate the information contained in the technical paper and, subject to the availability of resources, further promote the exchange of information on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals and support parties in undertaking activities for implementing the recommendations;

Agrees that the recommendations and the information contained in the technical paper should be taken into account for the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions, in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention.

³ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3/Rev.1. The title of the guidance as endorsed by the Committee in decision POPRC-6/5 was "Guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives". The title was revised at the eighth meeting of the Committee to be consistent with the terminology used under the Stockholm Convention and to clarify the scope of the guidance.