

## Background information and general guidance on submission of information on New POPs in accordance with SC-4/19

### 1. Decisions by the COP on listing nine new POPs (SC-4/10-18)

The Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting decided to list nine new chemicals under Annexes A, B and C of the Convention as follows:

- 1) Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane (CAS No: 319-84-6) in Annex A of the Convention with no production or use exemptions.
- 2) Beta hexachlorocyclohexane (CAS No: 319-85-7) in Annex A of the Convention with no production or use exemptions.
- 3) Chlordecone (CAS No: 143-50-0) in Annex A of the Convention with no production or use exemptions.
- 4) Hexabromobiphenyl (CAS No: 36355-01-8) in Annex A of the Convention with no production or use exemptions.
- 5) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether meaning 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153, CAS No: 68631-49-2), 2,2',4,4',5,6'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-154, CAS No: 207122-15-4), 2,2',3,3',4,5',6 heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-175, CAS No: 446255-22-7), 2,2',3,4,4',5',6-heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-183, CAS No: 207122-16-5) and other hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial octabromodiphenyl ether in Annex A of the Convention with specific use exemptions.
- 6) Lindane (CAS No: 58-89-9) in Annex A of the Convention with a specific use exemption of lindane as a human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment.
- 7) Pentachlorobenzene (CAS No: 608-93-5) in Annex A of the Convention with no production or use exemptions and in Annex C.
- 8) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No: 1763-23-1), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS No: 307-35-7) in Annex B of the Convention with several acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for production and use of these chemicals.
- 9) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether meaning 2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47, CAS No: 40088-47-9) and 2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-99, CAS No: 32534-81-9) and other tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether in Annex A of the Convention with specific use exemptions.

### 2. Exemptions for certain chemicals

**1) For the two groups of polybrominated diphenyl ethers**, the Conference of the Parties included specific exemptions for use in Articles in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) A Party may allow recycling of articles that contain or may contain tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, and the use and final disposal of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain or may contain tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, provided that:

- a) The recycling and final disposal is carried out in an environmentally sound manner and does not lead to recovery of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether for the purpose of their reuse;
- b) The Party does not allow this exemption to lead to the export of articles containing levels/concentrations of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether that exceed those permitted to be sold within the territory of the Party; and
- c) The Party has notified the Secretariat of its intention to make use of this exemption.

(2) At its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the progress Parties made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2030.

**2) For Perfluorooctane sulfonic (PFOS) acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)**, the Conference of the Parties included acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for use and production of these chemicals in Annex B as follows:

- (1) Acceptable purpose:
  - Photo imaging
  - Photo resist and anti-reflective coatings for semi-conductors
  - Etching agent for compound semi-conductors and ceramic filters
  - Aviation hydraulic fluids
  - Metal plating (hard metal plating) only in closed-loop systems
  - Certain medical devices (such as ethylene tetrafluoroethylene copolymer (ETFE) layers and radio-opaque ETFE production, in vitro diagnostic medical devices, and CCD colour filters)
  - Fire fighting foam
  - Insect baits for control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta* spp. and *Acromyrmex* spp.
- (2) Specific exemption:
  - Photo masks in the semiconductor and liquid crystal display (LCD) industries
  - Metal plating (hard metal plating)
  - Metal plating (decorative plating)
  - Electric and electronic parts for some colour printers and colour copy machines
  - Insecticides for control of red imported fire ants and termites
  - Chemically driven oil production
  - Carpets
  - Leather and apparel
  - Textiles and upholstery
  - Paper and packaging
  - Coatings and coating additives
  - Rubber and plastics

### **3. Work programme adopted by the Conference of the Parties (SC-4/19)**

**1) For the two groups of polybrominated diphenyl ethers**, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties and invited observers to provide information pursuant to paragraphs 1–4 of the annex to decision SC-4/19 as follows:

- (1) Types and quantities of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers, including concentrations of those substances in the articles, including recycled articles;
- (2) Types of articles recycled, the extent of recycling, the types of articles produced from recycling, the options for the environmental management of recycling operations and releases or potential releases resulting from recycling operations;
- (3) Cost-effectiveness of different management options;
- (4) Options for environmentally sound disposal;
- (5) Methods for identifying the presence and levels of brominated diphenyl ethers in articles;
- (6) Identification of remediation methods for contaminated sites as listed in subparagraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention;
- (7) Any other related information.

The Secretariat was requested in decision SC-4/19 to gather and compile the above mentioned information and to summarize it to facilitate the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its sixth meeting.

**2) For PFOS, its salts and PFOSF**, in order to facilitate the restriction or elimination of these chemicals, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties and invited observers to provide information pursuant to paragraphs 1–4 of the annex to decision SC-4/19 as follows:

- (1) Types and quantities of articles containing PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including concentrations of those substances in such articles;

- (2) Types of processes using PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including concentrations of those substances used in such processes, the options for the environmental management of such processing operations, recycling operations and releases and potential releases resulting from such processing operations;
- (3) Types of articles recycled, the extent of recycling, the types of articles produced from recycling, the options for the environmental management of recycling operations and releases or potential releases resulting from recycling operations;
- (4) Cost effectiveness of different management options;
- (5) Methods for sampling and analysis of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in articles;
- (6) Identification of remediation methods for contaminated sites as listed in subparagraph 1 (e) of Article 6 of the Convention;
- (7) Any other related information.

The Secretariat was requested in decision SC-4/19 to gather and compile the above mentioned information and to summarize it to facilitate the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its sixth meeting.

**3) For other chemicals listed in Annexes A of the Convention at the fourth meeting**, the Conference requested Parties and invited observers to provide information on the extent to which such chemicals occur in articles or present a risk of exposure from stockpiles and contaminated sites.

The Secretariat was requested in decision SC-4/19 to gather and compile the above mentioned information and to summarize it to facilitate the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its sixth meeting.

#### **4. Questionnaire for information submission**

In order to collect the information requested in decision SC-4/19, the Secretariat has prepared the attached questionnaire. The questionnaire is structured in four parts:

**PART I** – General information on the submission

**PART II** – Commercial PentaBDE (tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ether) and commercial OctaBDE (hepta- and hexabromodiphenyl ether)

**PART III** – Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)

**PART IV** – Other chemicals listed in Annex A at the fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

PART II and III contain Section A – general questions and Section B – detailed questions.

These more detailed questions are directed to countries that manufacture articles containing these chemicals, use these chemicals in processes, recycle articles containing these chemicals, or any other entity that can provide detailed information. If you do not have any information on the question asked, please indicate so.

Extensive information on the nine new POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention can be found in the respective Risk Management Evaluation developed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee for each chemical ([www.pops.int/poprc](http://www.pops.int/poprc)). Please contact the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention should you have any questions about the questionnaire or need additional background information on any of these chemicals.

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