

SC-4/17: Listing of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile, risk management evaluation and addendum to the risk management evaluation for perfluorooctane sulfonate transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in Annex A or Annex B of the Convention,²

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex B of the Convention to list perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride therein by inserting the following row, with the acceptable purposes and specific exemptions specified in the row:

1 UNEP/POPRC.2/17/Add.5, UNEP/POPRC.3/20/Add.5 and UNEP/POPRC.4/15/Add.6.
2 UNEP/POPS/COP.4/17.

| Chemical | Activity | Acceptable purpose or specific exemption |
|--|------------|---|
| <p>Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No: 1763-23-1), its salts^a and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS No: 307-35-7)</p> <p>^a For example: potassium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 2795-39-3); lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 29457-72-5); ammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 29081-56-9); diethanolammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 70225-14-8); tetraethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 56773-42-3); didecyldimethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No: 251099-16-8)</p> | Production | <p>Acceptable purpose:</p> <p>In accordance with part III of this Annex, production of other chemicals to be used solely for the uses below. Production for uses listed below.</p> <p>Specific exemption:</p> <p>As allowed for Parties listed in the Register.</p> |
| | Use | <p>Acceptable purpose:</p> <p>In accordance with part III of this Annex for the following acceptable purposes, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following acceptable purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Atta spp.</i> and <i>Acromyrmex spp.</i> <p>Specific exemption:</p> <p>For the following specific uses, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following specific uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |

2. *Also decides* to create a new part III in Annex B called “Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)”, which reads:

Part III

**Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts
and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride**

1. The production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) shall be eliminated by all Parties except as provided in part I of this Annex for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use them for acceptable purposes. A Register of Acceptable Purposes is hereby established and shall be available to the public. The Secretariat shall maintain the Register of Acceptable Purposes. In the event that a Party not listed in the Register determines that it requires the use of PFOS, its salts or PFOSF for the acceptable purposes listed in part I of this Annex it shall notify the Secretariat as soon as possible in order to have its name added forthwith to the Register.
2. Parties that produce and/or use these chemicals shall take into account, as appropriate, guidance such as that given in the relevant parts of the general guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices given in part V of Annex C of the Convention.
3. Every four years, each Party that uses and/or produces these chemicals shall report on progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submit information on such progress to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to and in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention.
4. With the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the production and/or use of these chemicals, the Conference of the Parties shall encourage:
 - (a) Each Party using these chemicals to take action to phase out uses when suitable alternative substances or methods are available;
 - (b) Each Party using and/or producing these chemicals to develop and implement an action plan as part of the implementation plan specified in Article 7 of the Convention;
 - (c) The Parties, within their capabilities, to promote research on and development of safe alternative chemical and non-chemical products and processes, methods and strategies for Parties using these chemicals, relevant to the conditions of those Parties. Factors to be promoted when considering alternatives or combinations of alternatives shall include the human health risks and environmental implications of such alternatives.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the continued need for these chemicals for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including:
 - (a) Information provided in the reports described in paragraph 3;
 - (b) Information on the production and use of these chemicals;
 - (c) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to these chemicals;
 - (d) Information on progress in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on such alternatives.

6. The evaluation referred to in the preceding paragraph shall take place no later than in 2015 and every four years thereafter, in conjunction with a regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Due to the complexity of the use and the many sectors of society involved in the use of these chemicals, there might be other uses of these chemicals of which countries are not presently aware. Parties which become aware of other uses are encouraged to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

8. A Party may, at any time, withdraw its name from the Register of acceptable purposes upon written notification to the Secretariat. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date specified in the notification.

9. The provisions of note (iii) of part I of Annex B shall not apply to these chemicals.