

Webinar of the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group on Recent Developments in Alternatives to Long Chain PFCs

30 April 2014

7am Washington DC, 1pm Paris, 8pm Beijing and 9pm Tokyo time

Information note

Per- and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) have been in use since the 1950s as ingredients or intermediates of surfactants and surface protectors for assorted industrial and consumer applications. The highly stable carbon-fluorine bond and the unique physicochemical properties of PFCs have led to their extensive use in various industries worldwide (e.g. aviation, aerospace, electronics, fire-fighting, textile, medical articles). However within the past decade, several PFCs have been recognised as highly persistent, potentially bioaccumulative and toxic. This has led to efforts towards restricting the use of long-chain PFCs and reducing the global impact of these chemicals on the environment, safety and health. To that end, there has been a trend amongst global manufacturers and downstream users to replace long-chain PFCs with chemical or non-chemical alternatives. Three types of alternatives have been developed:

- substances with shorter per- or polyfluorinated carbon chains;
- non-fluorine-containing substances; and
- non-chemical techniques.

Objective: This webinar aims to give an insight into recent developments in alternatives to long chain PFCs. It is organised around expert talks. Attendees will also have an opportunity to discuss with the speakers and ask questions in an interactive setting.

The webinar will last for 60 minutes.

Speakers:

- **Sylvie Poret**, Principal Administrator, OECD and **Kaj Madsen**, Senior Program Officer, UNEP (*introduction -10 minutes*)
- **Jessica Steinhilber**, Executive Director, FluoroCouncil (*10 minutes*)
- **Nicholas Nairn-Birch**, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Protection Agency, United States (*10 minutes*)
- **Melisa Lim**, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention (*10 minutes*)

Talks will be followed by a 20 minutes questions and answers session.

Background

By its resolutions II/5 and III/3, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited OECD, UNEP and the other Participating Organisations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), as part of their mandate and work programme, together with governments and other stakeholders, to consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) of concern in products and to work towards global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible.

To enhance and further the implementation of resolutions II/5 and III/3, and to help facilitate the participation of all interested governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, especially those that are not from OECD member countries, OECD and UNEP set-up a Global PFC Group.



In order to support these efforts, the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group is holding a series of webinars. This webinar is the third in a series and will provide insights into recent developments in alternatives to long chain PFCs. This webinar will be followed by another one on regulatory approaches to PFCs that are being implemented in several countries.

The Global PFC Group recently released a publication that provides a synthetic overview of the key insights and issues surrounding perfluorinated chemicals and the series of webinars will draw on this document, which can be downloaded [here](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc) (www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc).

Logistical information

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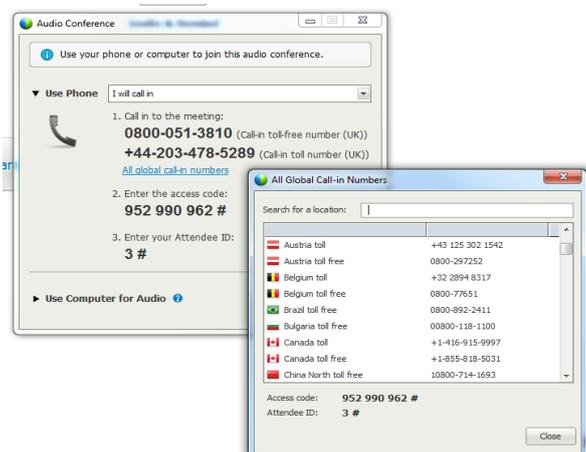
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