PFASs risk reduction initiatives under the Stockholm Convention and associated publications

PFOS, its salts and PFOSF was added to Annex B to the Stockholm Convention in 2009. PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds are under review by the POPs Review Committee since 2015.

During the review of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, the POPs Review Committee adopted the risk management evaluation (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.5) and an addendum to the risk management evaluation (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.6). In accordance with the process provided in Article 8, the documents provide information on socio-economic considerations associated with possible control measures in meeting risk reduction goals for the chemicals.

In response to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in decision SC-4/19, the POPs Review Committee reviewed the information provided by Parties and other stakeholders and prepared recommendations on risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in its decision POPRC-6/2 in 2010.

Following the recommendations on risk reduction by the POPs Review Committee, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other stakeholders to provide information on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in decision POPRC-6/2. The information has been compiled in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/7 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/12. The information was considered during the evaluation of continued need for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions conducted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2015.

Furthermore, “Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) for the use of PFOS and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention” has been developed in order to address the risks of those chemicals (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/21).

With regard to the environmentally sound management of waste in accordance with Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention, the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with PFOS, its salts and PFOSF (UNEP/CHW.12.5/Add.3/Rev.1) was developed and adopted by the Basel Convention.

All the documents listed in the text can be downloaded at http://chm.pops.int/tabid/5219/Default.aspx.