

Background on PFC- related work supported by OECD/UNEP

www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc

Peter Börkey (OECD)

OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group

- This webinar is organised by OECD/UNEP with support from US EPA
- OECD/UNEP support work on PFCs in the framework of SAICM and ICCM2 resolution II/5
- Global PFC Group with UNEP and OECD as secretariat is in formation
- Open and informal group that operates through conference calls
- A good number of developing countries, as well as industry and NGOs have now joined the Group
- Global PFC Group builds on approach of OECD PFC Steering Group, ie information gathering and exchange activities

Key activities – OECD PFC Steering Group

- PFC Web Portal: www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc
- Webinars and side-events on specific themes
 - Oct. 2010 « Recent PFC related activities »
 - 2, 8/9 March 2011 « 2009 PFC Survey »
 - Side-events at POPs COP (lunch time 28 April) and OEWG (November 2011)
- PFC Surveys on production and use of PFCs and their releases to the environment (2004, 2006, 2009)

This webinar

- Objective: To discuss the methodology that was used in the 2009 OECD survey to gather broader support
- Agenda
 - Intro (OECD)
 - PFC Survey Methodology (NICNAS)
 - Manufacturer's perspective (FluoroCouncil)

Issues for discussion

- Are there any concerns that would prevent you from participating in the survey?
- Are there any issues with confidential business information, or other aspects of the survey methodology that you think would need to be re-considered?
- What type of support from the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group would companies need to participate in the survey?

Additional Resources

- OECD Portal on Perfluorinated Chemicals
 - http://www.oecd.org/site/o,3407,en_21571361_44787844_1_1_1_1_1,00.html
- Stockholm Convention
 - <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NewPOPs/The9newPOPs/tabid/672/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Thank you!

OECD Portal on Perfluorinated Chemicals

www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc

Contact: peter.borkey@oecd.org
kaj.madsen@unep.org

OECD PFC Steering Group

- Concern about persistence, toxicity, and bioaccumulative potential of LCPFCs
- Prompted OECD to undertake action in early 2000, aiming to collect more reliable data on the production and use of PFCs
- Establishment of PFC Steering Group in 2004 to support these activities
- In 2009 ICCM2 adopted resolution II/5 for management of PFCs: to « consider development of ... approaches to reduce emissions and the content ... in products ... and work towards global elimination where ... feasible »
- OECD PFC work contributes to this mandate
- Main tools: information gathering and exchange

Scope of Work of OECD PFC Steering Group

- Distinction between long-chain perfluorinated compounds (LC PFCs) and short-chain perfluorinated compounds (SC PFCs), based on the toxicity and bioaccumulation differences between LC PFCs and SC PFCs.
- "Long-chain perfluorinated compounds" refers to:
 - Perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCA) carbon chain lengths C8 and higher, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA);
 - Perfluoroalkyl sulfonates (PFAS) with carbon chain lengths C6 and higher, including perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS); and
 - Precursors of these substances that may be produced or present in products.
- OECD PFC Steering Group looks at a broad range of PFCs, including PFOS, and including alternatives to PFOS