



# Introduction to work of OECD PFC Steering Group

[www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc)

**Peter Börkey**

# Background

- 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
- Since 2009 ICCM2, OECD contributes to SAICM mandate to « consider development of ... approaches to reduce emissions and the content ... in products ... and work towards global elimination where ... feasible »
- 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 with carbon chain lengths C8 and higher, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA);
  - Perfluoroalkyl sulfonates 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

# Key activities

- PFC Web Portal: [www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc), with information on:
  - government activities related to their regulatory and stewardship efforts
  - updates on scientific developments
  - new technologies
  - available alternatives , and
  - PFC-related events

# Key activities

- **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 (August 2011)
- **PFC Surveys on production and use of PFCs and their releases to the environment (2004, 2006, 2009)**

# Global PFC Group

- Need to establish a global group, given importance of countries outside OECD region in production and use of PFCs
- UNEP and OECD to serve as secretariat to « Global PFC Group »
- Open and informal group that operates through conference calls
- Efforts to include developing countries in the Group will be undertaken in coming weeks

# OECD PFC Web Portal

# Objective

- This Web Portal is designed to facilitate information exchange on perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs).
- The portal is designed to allow stakeholders to share information on
  - government activities related to their regulatory and stewardship efforts
  - updates on scientific developments
  - new technologies
  - available alternatives , and
  - PFC-related events





## ENVPFC (Home)

- > Government Efforts on Managing PFCs
- > Model Stewardship Programs & Regulatory Actions
- > Updates from International Organizations
- > Scientific Information on Long-Chain PFCs
- > Technologies
- > Information on Short-Chain PFCs and Other Alternatives
- > PFC Contamination and Waste
- > PFC Events, Meetings & Webinars

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### [Purpose of Web Portal: Scope](#)

[Introduction to Perfluorinated Chemicals, Resolution, OECD and SAICM](#)

[Background on Perfluorinated Chemicals](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Perfluorinated Chemicals Basic Fact Sheet](#)

[Submission of Information to this Portal](#)

### **Purpose of Web Portal: Scope**

This Web Portal is designed to facilitate information exchange on perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs). The portal is designed to allow stakeholders to share information on [government activities related to their regulatory and stewardship efforts](#), updates on [scientific developments](#), [new technologies](#), [available alternatives](#), and [PFC-related events](#). Although the portal will be managed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Secretariat, OECD and non-OECD countries and stakeholders are encouraged to participate and share information.

A distinction is made 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 with carbon chain lengths C8 and higher, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA);
- Perfluoroalkyl sulfonates 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.

For definition purposes "precursor" means a substance that has been recognized as having the potential to degrade to perfluorocarboxylic acids with a carbon chain length of C8 and higher (including PFOA) or perfluoroalkyl sulfonates with a carbon chain length of C6 of higher (including PFHxS and PFOS).

**[Introduction to Perfluorinated Chemicals, Resolution, OECD and SAICM](#)**

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## Government Efforts on Managing PFCs

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- [Regulatory Actions in Countries](#)
- [Hazard and Risk Assessments](#)
- [Technical Reports](#)
- [Country Web Sites](#)
- [IGO Considerations and Facilitation for National Regulatory Actions](#)

### Regulatory Actions in Countries

#### Canada

Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry/regulations/DetailReg.cfm?intReq=107>

Action Plan for the Assessment and Management of Perfluorinated Carboxylic Acids and their Precursors: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=2DC7ADE3-A653-478C-AF56-3BE756D81772>

Proposed Regulations Amending the Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2005 (Four New Fluorotelomer-based Substances) (Long Chain PFCA Precursors):  
<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/archives/p1/2006/2006-06-17/html/req2-eng.html>

PFOS Summary Page: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/toxiques-toxics/Default.asp?lang=En&n=98E80CC6-1&xml=ECD5A576-CEE5-49C7-B26A-88007131860D>

PFCA Summary Page: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/toxiques-toxics/Default.asp?lang=En&n=6B9B6B28-1&xml=F68CBFF1-B480-4348-903D-24DFF9D623DC>

Four New Fluorotelomer-based Substances (Long Chain PFCA Precursors) Summary Page:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/toxiques-toxics/Default.asp?lang=En&n=98E80CC6-1&xml=0593FBA5-FFCA-4B9D-8D6D-70EAC1094008>

#### United Kingdom

The UK risk reduction strategy document for Perfluorooctane Sulphonate (PFOS) has been published in 2004 and is available via this link to the UK's Department for Environment, Food &

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## Scientific Information on Long-Chain PFCs

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[Potential Effects on Human Health and Environment](#)

[Exposure](#)

[Environmental Fate and Transport](#)

[Emissions](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Hazard and Risk Assessment](#)

[Other Pertinent Research Information](#)

### **Potential Effects on Human Health and Environment**

#### **Exposure**

Survey of the extent of the use and occurrence of PFNA in Norway (2009)

<http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Nyheter/2010/April-2010/Mangelfull-kunnskap-om-den-perfluorerte-syren-PFNA/?cid=3338>

Survey, screening and analyses of PFCs in consumer products in Norway (2009)

<http://www.klif.no/no/Aktuelt/Nyheter/2010/Juni-2010/Kartlegger-perfluorerte-forbindelser-i-produkter/>

#### **Environmental Fate and Transport**

#### **Emissions**

#### **Monitoring**

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# Governance

- **An open platform!**
- **OECD and non-OECD countries and stakeholders are encouraged to participate and share information**
- **PFC Steering Group functions as gate keeper**

Thank you!

# OECD Portal on Perfluorinated Chemicals

[www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc)

Contact: [ehscont@oecd.org](mailto:ehscont@oecd.org)