



**THE CONTROL OF PERFLUOROOCTANE  
SULFONIC ACID (PFOS),  
ITS SALTS AND PERFLUOROOCTANE  
SULFONYL FLUORIDE (PFOS-F)  
UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**

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# Outline of the presentation

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1. The Stockholm Convention
2. Listing of PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F in Annex B of the Stockholm Convention
3. Activities to promote the elimination of and risk reduction for PFOS



# The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants



# The Stockholm Convention

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- **Aim: Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants**
- Entered into force on 17 May 2004
- 172 Parties to date
- 21 chemicals currently listed under the Convention
- Conference of the Parties (COP) meets every two years; next meeting 25-29 April 2011, Geneva



# Provisions of the Convention

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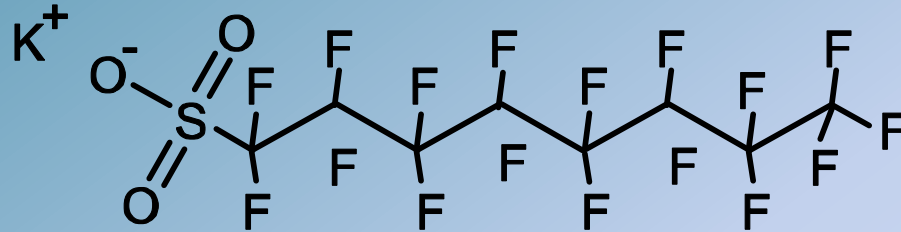
- Elimination (POPs listed in annex A)
- **Restriction (POPs listed in annex B)**
- Continuous reduction (POPs listed in annex C)
- **Management of stockpiles and wastes**
- Awareness raising and research
- National Implementation Plan
- Exchange of information
- Reporting
- Effectiveness evaluation
- Technical assistance and Financial mechanism



# Listing of PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F in Annex B of the Stockholm Convention



# Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and PFOS fluoride (PFOS-F)

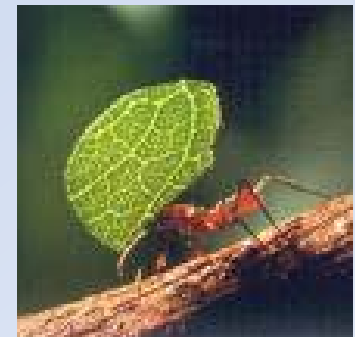
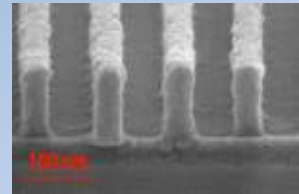


- By its decision SC-4/17, the Conference of the Parties decided to list PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F in Annex B, with specific exemptions and acceptable purposes
- Each Party shall restrict its production and use of chemicals in Annex B in accordance with the provisions of that Annex



# Acceptable purposes: (Currently no alternatives are available)

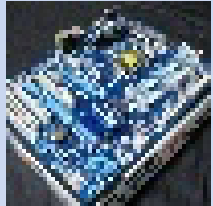
- Photo imaging,
- Photo resist and anti-reflective coatings for semi-conductors,
- Etching agent for compound semi-conductors and ceramic filters,
- Aviation hydraulic fluids,
- Metal plating only in closed-loop systems,
- Certain medical devices (e.g. ETFE layers, radio-opaque ETFE, in vitro diagnostic medical devices, CCD color filters),
- Fire fighting foam,
- Insect baits for control of leaf-cutting ants.





## Specific exemptions: (Alternatives needs phase-in)

- Photo masks in the semiconductor and LCD industries,
- Hard metal plating,
- Decorative metal plating,
- Electric and electronic parts for some color printers and color 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.



# Annex B provisions for PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F

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- Every four years, Parties to report on progress made to eliminate PFOS, pursuant to Article 15
- COP to encourage Parties to:
  - phase out uses when alternatives are available
  - develop and implement an action plan as part of their national implementation plan
  - to promote research and development on safe alternatives
- COP will evaluate the continued need for PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F no later than 2015 and every four years thereafter
- Parties encouraged to inform Secretariat of uses of these chemicals of which countries are not presently aware



# Activities to promote the elimination of and risk reduction for PFOS



# Guidance on alternatives

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- ❑ Guidance on considerations related to alternatives and substitutes for listed persistent organic pollutants and candidate chemicals (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.5/10/Add.1)
- ❑ **Guidance document on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonate and its derivatives (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3)**



# Activities to promote risk reduction for PFOS

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- Information gathering from Parties and observers about:
  - Types and quantities of articles containing PFOS
  - Types of articles recycled; the extent of recycling; the types of articles produced from recycling; the options for the environmental management of recycling operations and releases resulting from recycling operations.
  - Types of processes using PFOS and the options for the environmental management of such processing operations
  - Cost-effectiveness of different management options;
  - Options for environmentally sound disposal;
  - Methods for identifying the presence and levels of PFOS in articles;
  - Identification of remediation methods for contaminated sites

➤ POPs Review Committee developed recommendations on the elimination of BDEs from the waste stream and on **risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF (UNEP/POPS/COP.5/15)**



# In progress

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- Develop guidance documents on newly listed POPs (including PFOS):
  - Guidance for establishing inventories of products/articles containing new POPs and industrial processes using new POPs
  - Guidance for customs on commercial trade names
  - Guidance on the labelling of products containing new POPs
  - Guidance on best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for production and use of PFOS
  
- Recommendations of POPRC on risk reduction for PFOS to be considered at fifth Conference of the Parties in April 2011



# SUMMARY

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❖ The POPs Review Committee reviewed the proposal for listing PFOS and developed risk profile and risk management evaluation documents:

➤ Risk profile: [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.2/17/Add.5](#)

➤ Risk management evaluation: [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.5](#)

❖ At COP4 in 2009, PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F were listed in Annex B of the Convention, with specific exemptions and acceptable purposes

❖ Parties are to report to the COP on progress made to eliminate these chemicals

❖ To assist Parties, guidance on alternatives and recommendations on risk reduction have been developed by POPRC

❖ Guidance documents on newly listed POPs, including PFOS, are being developed to assist Parties in implementing Convention requirements



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Stockholm Convention  
on persistent organic  
pollutants (POPs)



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