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

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

- **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

• 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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
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.
http://www.pops.int

Thank you