

Initiatives of the Stockholm Convention on Alternatives

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.

The draft guidance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF was first prepared by the POPs Review Committee in 2010 ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3](#)). There have been several rounds of revision to that guidance based on the new information provided by Parties and other stakeholders ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/13/Add.3/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/11/Rev.1](#)). At the 12th meeting held in September 2016, the Committee considered the latest draft ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/INF/15](#)).

In response to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in decision SC-5/5, the POPs Review Committee developed a technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/17/Rev.1](#)) in 2012. The technical paper included consideration of the following aspects of the alternatives to PFOS: technical feasibility; health and environmental effects; cost-effectiveness; efficacy; availability; and accessibility. Based on the technical paper, the Committee submitted recommendations on the alternatives to the use of PFOS in open application to the Conference of the Parties in its [decision POPRC-8/8](#).

According to paragraph 5 and 6 of Part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention, the Conference of the Parties is to evaluate the continued need for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions every four years from 2015. For this purpose, pursuant to the process set out in decision SC-6/4, the POPs Review Committee conducted an assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submitted a report ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1](#)) and factsheets ([UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/8/Rev.1](#)) to the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2015.

Based on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF as well as the report prepared by the Secretariat ([UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/11](#)) and other information provided by Parties and stakeholders, the Conference of the Parties, in its [decision SC-7/4](#), concluded that Parties may need to continue to produce and/or use PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for acceptable purposes as provided in Annex B to the Convention and consequently need to notify the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use those chemicals for those purposes. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to consider, on the basis of information and the availability of alternatives, withdrawing their names from the register of acceptable purposes, noting, however, that substitution with regard to fire-fighting foam may be considered after carrying out techno-economical viability assessment and ensuring functionality in various geo-climatic conditions.

By [decision SC-7/1](#), the Conference of the Parties note that as there are no longer any parties registered for the specific exemptions for the production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations may be made with regard to them.

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