

Webinar of the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group on Risk Reduction Approaches to PFCs

3 December 2014

7am Washington DC, 1pm Paris, 8pm Beijing and 9pm Tokyo time

Information note

Per- and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) have been in use since the 1950s as ingredients or intermediates of surfactants and surface protectors for assorted industrial and consumer applications. The highly stable carbon-fluorine bond and the unique physicochemical properties of PFCs have led to their extensive use in various industries worldwide (e.g. aviation, aerospace, electronics, fire-fighting, textile, medical articles). However within the past decade, several PFCs have been recognised as highly persistent, potentially bioaccumulative and toxic. This has led to efforts towards restricting the use of long-chain PFCs and reducing the global impact of these chemicals on the environment, safety and health.

Objective: This webinar aims to present recent developments in risk reduction approaches for PFCs. It is organised around expert talks. Attendees will also have an opportunity to discuss with the speakers and ask questions in an interactive setting.

The webinar will last for 60 minutes.

Speakers:

- **Eeva Leinala**, Principal Administrator, OECD and **Kaj Madsen**, Senior Program Officer, UNEP (*introduction -10 minutes*)
- **Toni Krasnic**, Environmental Protection Agency, United States (*10 minutes*)
- **Fannie Lalonde**, Environment Canada, Canada (*10 minutes*)
- **Christoph Schulte**, Environmental Agency, Germany (*10 minutes*)

Presentations will be followed by a 20 minute question and answer session.

Background

By its resolutions II/5 and III/3, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited OECD, UNEP and the other Participating Organisations of the Inter-Organization

Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), as part of their mandate and work programme, together with governments and other stakeholders, to consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) of concern in products and to work towards global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible.

To enhance and further the implementation of resolutions II/5 and III/3, and to help facilitate the participation of all interested governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, especially those that are not from OECD member countries, OECD and UNEP set-up a Global PFC Group.



In order to support these efforts, the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group is holding a series of webinars. This webinar is the last in a series and will present recent developments in risk reduction approaches for PFCs.

The Global PFC Group recently released a publication that provides a synthetic overview of the key insights and issues surrounding perfluorinated chemicals and the series of webinars will draw on this document, which can be downloaded [here](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc) (www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc).

Logistical information

Webinar starting time: 3 December 2014, 7am Washington DC, 1pm Paris, 8pm Beijing and 9pm Tokyo time

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