

THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2011
13:15-14:00, ROOM 4

Safer PFC Alternatives:

OECD efforts for management of Perfluorinated Compounds and the transition to safer alternatives

The side event will provide information on recent activities of the OECD PFC Steering Group, and the creation of the new "Global PFC Group" that will involve OECD and developing countries.

Agenda:

13:15-13:45

- Introduction and presentation of PFC Web Portal, webinars, and new Global PFC Group—Peter Börkey (OECD)
- PFC Survey—Peter Börkey (OECD)
- Industry perspective—Richard Holt (FluoroCouncil and Business and Industry Advisory Council to OECD)
- Government perspective—Ana Corado (USEPA)

13:45-14:00

- Discussion with the floor

Background:

The worldwide presence of long-chain perfluorinated compounds (LCPFCs), which include PHOS and PFOA, combined with their persistence, toxicity, and bioaccumulative potential, makes these chemicals a particular concern.

In May 2009, the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) adopted Resolution II/5 for the management of PFCs and transition to safer alternatives. The resolution invites governments, international organisations, 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 of concern in products and to work towards global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible.

The OECD activities related to PFCs are meant to contribute to the above mandate, and also build upon a 2006 OECD Workshop on Perfluorocarboxylic Acids and Precursors and the current efforts to collect more reliable data of the production and use of PFCs, including information from producers on environmental releases of targeted substances from manufacturing and the content of targeted substances in products.

A light lunch will be provided



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POPs-free Products & POPs in Articles

This session will provide an exchange of views on how to identify POPs-free products, and will address POPs in articles in light of stakeholders' experiences. It will also offer an opportunity to share ideas on future work programmes and activities for POPs-free products, POPs in articles, and POPs phasing-out possibilities.

Moderator: Kei Ohno (Stockholm Convention Secretariat)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introduction—Moderator
2. Panel Discussion
 - Chemicals in Products Project—Agneta Sunden (UNEP Chemicals)
 - Sweden's efforts—Maria Delvin (Sweden-TBC)
 - POPs-free initiative/POPs in products—Frank Moser
 - New POPs in Nigeria—Dr. Oludayo O. Dada (Nigeria-TBC)
 - Germany's efforts (Green Chemistry)—Steffi Richter (Germany)
 - Example of non-chemical alternative—Debora Altschuler (National Pediculosis Association)
3. Open Discussion
4. Closing Remarks—Moderator

Background:

Consultations relating to the SAICM Chemicals in Products project have helped point to the potential risks posed by the chemical composition and design of certain manufactured goods. The presence of POPs, in particular new POPs, in consumer products and supply chain articles is an emerging challenge of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

In order to assist Parties, the Secretariat is undertaking preliminary steps to promote the identification of POPs in articles, products free of POPs, as well as the exchange of information of alternatives and substitutes. Improving the availability of information on POPs in articles throughout the product chain will contribute to enhancing their sound management, including by informed decision-making and adequate regulatory systems. In parallel, the identification of products that are POPs-free and the promotion of phasing-out opportunities will contribute to improving production processes and the marketing of safer products.

The side event will offer the opportunity for Parties and stakeholders to identify some of the underlying problems related to POPs-free products

A light lunch will be provided