

Listing of new chemical under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Consultation document

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**Environmental
Protection Authority**
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

New Zealand Government

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We seek public input

This document has been prepared by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to support the consultation on the proposal to list a new persistent organic pollutant (POP) in Schedule 2A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act). We are notifying this proposal to enable public comment and would welcome your feedback.

You can make a submission online using the form in the section Public consultations: Open for submission on our website www.epa.govt.nz.

The submission form includes the questions asked in this consultation document. It also includes space for you to provide general comments on issues that we have not covered in our questions.

Online submissions will be emailed to us automatically. You can also attach supporting documents to the submission online.

If you are unable to enter your submission online, you can download our submission form and email your completed form and any supporting documents to: POPsConsultation@epa.govt.nz.

Supporting documents must be less than 30 MB.

If you have any questions or want more information about the proposal or the submission process, please email POPsConsultation@epa.govt.nz.

You can also find more information on how to make a submission in the section Public consultations: How to make a submission on our website.

Closing date for submissions

Please send your submission to us no later than **5.00 pm on Wednesday 5 April 2023**.

How we will consider your submissions

After the closing date, we will review the submissions received and prepare a report on the submissions, which we'll make available on our website www.epa.govt.nz.

We will use the information provided in the submissions to help us determine the next steps in the proposal.

Publishing and releasing submissions

The Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) applies to information we hold, and we may release the contents of submissions in response to OIA requests.

We may also publish all or part of any submissions we receive. This may include your name but will not include your contact details.

If you think there are any reasons to withhold specific information you have provided from publication or release under the OIA, please make this clear in your submission. Reasons may include, for example, that the information discloses commercially sensitive or personal information.

Privacy statement

Any personal information you supply when providing information will be used only in relation to this consultation. You have a right to access and correct any personal information that we hold. You can do this by contacting us at info@epa.govt.nz.

You may request that your personal information (such as your name) be withheld from publicly available information. We will not make your personal contact details publicly available.

Disclaimer

The contents of this proposal do not reflect final EPA policy. This document does not alter the laws of New Zealand. The EPA does not accept any responsibility or liability to any person, whether in contract, equity or tort, or any other legal principle, for any direct or indirect losses or damage arising from reliance on the contents of this document.

Summary

As a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention),¹ New Zealand has committed to eliminating and restricting persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are stable chemicals that do not readily degrade, they persist for a long time in the environment and human body, and bioaccumulate in the food chain.

New Zealand fulfils its Stockholm Convention obligations to eliminate or restrict the importation, production, use, and disposal of POPs, through the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act). Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act lists the chemicals that are subject to the Stockholm Convention obligations.

At its tenth meeting in June 2022,² the parties to the Stockholm Convention decided to add a new chemical, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds to the list of chemicals subject to restrictions under the convention (Decision SC-10/13). The chemical was listed with no specific exemptions.

PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds have been used in a wide variety of applications, including in fire-fighting foams and mist suppressants in electroplating, as moisture and dirt protective coatings in textile, leather, paper, and packaging applications, and in polishing agents.

To implement the restrictions on PFHxS into New Zealand legislation, the chemical needs to be added to the HSNO Act under:

- Schedule 1AA Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Schedule 2A Persistent Organic Pollutants.

This consultation document summarises the status of PFHxS in New Zealand and provides a general description of the Stockholm Convention, along with the rationale for amending the HSNO Act to incorporate the new listing of this POP.

We invite your feedback on the proposals described in this consultation document and have provided a set of questions to guide your responses.

¹ See the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants website at <http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx>

² See the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention webpage on the Stockholm Convention website at:
www.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP10/tabid/8397/Default.aspx

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention) is a multilateral environmental agreement limiting the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are highly toxic chemicals that persist in the environment, accumulate in human and animal tissues, and are passed from species to species through the food chain.

Every two years, the parties to the Stockholm Convention meet to discuss its implementation and, when required, decide if additional POPs should be subject to international regulation. Any additional POPs undergo a three-stage assessment process by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC), the Stockholm Convention's scientific review group, before a decision is taken on listing under the convention.

Once agreed, additional POPs are added to one or more of the annexes to the Stockholm Convention. The convention has three annexes in which chemicals are listed:

- **Annex A:** lists POPs to be eliminated. The obligation is to eliminate production, use, import, and export of the POPs listed, except for any "specific exemptions" permitted by the convention and where a party has registered for those exemptions. The duration of specific exemptions is usually for five years but can be varied.
- **Annex B:** lists POPs that are restricted to the uses specified in the annex, and these are referred to as "acceptable purposes". An example is DDT, which is prohibited except for use in disease vector control (for example, mosquitoes carrying malaria) in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. Any party using DDT must also have notified the Stockholm Convention that it will use this acceptable purpose.
- **Annex C:** lists POPs that are produced and released as unintentional by-products of specific processes. The obligation is for parties to avoid the unintentional production and releases of the listed POPs. An example is dioxins, which are by-products of some industrial processes and from burning certain wastes.

The Stockholm Convention also requires that countries manage any stockpiles and wastes of the POPs listed in these annexes, identify contaminated sites, and remediate these sites in an environmentally sound manner.

Exemptions

The Stockholm Convention secretariat maintains a register of the countries using any specific exemptions or acceptable purposes listed in Annexes A and B. Parties need to register with the secretariat to use an exemption or acceptable purpose when it has obligations for POPs listed under the Convention. Specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and expire at a specified time.

Parties also need to notify the secretariat if they continue to have articles containing listed POPs within their borders. This is called an "articles in use" notification and relates to articles containing POPs that were already in use before the relevant obligations came into force.

Annexes A and B of the Stockholm Convention state that:

- [ii] [...] Quantities of a chemical occurring as constituents of articles manufactured or already in use before or on the date of entry into force of the relevant obligation with respect to that chemical, shall not be considered as listed in this Annex, provided that a Party has notified the Secretariat that a particular type of article remains in use within that Party.

This notification covers existing articles for the time they remain in use within the territory of that party. It does not extend to reusing or recycling the article or exporting it for use elsewhere.

New listing

At its tenth meeting in June 2022, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention listed perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds in Annex A to the convention, setting the chemical for elimination (Decisions SC-10/13 and SC-10/14³).

The POPRC has prepared an initial indicative list of substances within the scope of the listing of PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds.⁴

New Zealand's obligations

New Zealand is a party to the Stockholm Convention so is bound to comply with it. The National Implementation Plan (NIP) prepared by the Ministry for the Environment describes how New Zealand implements its obligations under the convention.⁵

When a POP is listed, parties have obligations to impose prohibitions or restrictions. PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds have been or are used as component chemicals in products and manufactured articles in New Zealand.

Obligations under the Stockholm Convention extend to both the pure POP chemicals and products and articles containing these chemicals, other than as unintentional trace contaminants. This means New Zealand must ensure that any existing articles in use containing newly added POPs are managed and disposed of appropriately. Also, if the current use of existing articles is to continue, this use needs to be listed in the HSNO Act and the Stockholm Convention secretariat must be notified.

Obligations start on 16 November 2023

Parties are required to implement newly listed POPs into their national legislation within 12 months of the formal notification by the United Nations Secretary General (unless parties notify non-acceptance to the Stockholm Convention secretariat within this timeframe).

The new listing for PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds will enter into force on **16 November 2023**, which is 12 months after the formal notification provided to the parties.

³ See Annex 1 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1: Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its resumed tenth meeting (face-to-face and high-level segments), available at:

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/208/Default.aspx>

⁴ See document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/INF/9: Initial indicative list of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, available under the Information documents tab on the Fifteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC.15) webpage on the Stockholm Convention website at:

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC15/Overview/tabid/8052/Default.aspx> or directly downloadable at: <http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/download.aspx?d=UNEP-POPS-POPRC.15-INF-9.English.pdf>

⁵ Ministry for the Environment. 2022. *New Zealand's Updated National Implementation Plan: Under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. URL: <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-updated-national-implementation-plan-under-the-stockholm-convention-on-persistent-organic-pollutants-2022/>

Specific exemptions

No specific exemptions have been provided with the listing of PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.

Articles in use notification

New Zealand may need to make an 'articles in use' notification for PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds. Articles covered are manufactured articles that have some of the POP in material included in the article. Notification of articles in use only applies to the continued use of those articles being used at the time of listing in New Zealand legislation. It allows continued use of existing articles in use. It does not allow new articles to be brought into New Zealand or the PFHxS material to be recycled for further use. At the end of their lives the articles will need to be disposed or destroyed in an environmentally sound manner as POPs waste.

The New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals (NZIoC) includes listings for some of the PFHxS-related compounds. This suggests that products containing some PFHxS-related compounds have been imported into New Zealand. These may have been used in the manufacture of articles that are still in use in New Zealand (discussed further below).

Implementing the Stockholm Convention into New Zealand legislation

Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

The HSNO Act was amended in 2003 to implement New Zealand's main obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The obligation for eliminating or severely restricting the production and use of newly listed POPs is mainly met by including the POPs in Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act. Any specific exemptions applying are also listed in Schedule 2A. The HSNO Act prohibits any POP listed in Schedule 2A, or a product containing a POP, from being imported into, manufactured, or used in New Zealand (subject to some limited exceptions).

The HSNO Act prohibits, or in some cases imposes severe restrictions on, the import, manufacture, and use of POPs (or chemicals containing POPs) in line with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention. Residual POPs in New Zealand can no longer be used once they are listed in Schedule 2A except for any limited exemptions that may be listed in the schedule. Residual POPs, including wastes and unused stocks of POPs, are subject to rules relating to collection, storage, and disposal that are specified in the Hazardous Substances (Storage and Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants) Notice 2004.

Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act can be amended by an Order in Council as new chemicals are added to the Stockholm Convention. The full text of the Stockholm Convention is included in Schedule 1AA of the HSNO Act and can also be amended by an Order in Council.

Before POPs can be added to Schedule 2A, section 141 of the HSNO Act requires the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) to request the EPA to advise all those likely to be affected and to allow submissions on the proposal. The EPA must report the results of the consultation to the Minister, along with any advice on best international practices and standards for the safe management of hazardous substances. On 23 November 2022, the Minister requested the EPA to consult on the proposed amendment to include PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds in Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act.

Following the EPA's consultation on the proposal, the Minister will seek Cabinet approval for the proposed amendments to Schedules 1AA and 2A of the HSNO Act. The proposal then needs to be approved by the Executive Council before it is formally adopted as part of the HSNO Act.

In addition, any new POPs are included in Schedule 1 (Stockholm Chemicals) of the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004, which requires exports of POPs from New Zealand, other than wastes, to be subject to permitting. The Ministry for the Environment will seek approval to make technical changes to the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004 to achieve this when it seeks Cabinet approval to include PFHxS in Schedules 1AA and 2A of the HSNO Act. The export of POPs waste for destruction is also subject to permitting under the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004, which implements obligations under the Basel Convention. The Basel Convention is an international treaty designed to control the movements of hazardous waste between nations.

More about the new POP

Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds

Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds means:

- perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (CAS No. 355-46-4, PFHxS), including branched isomers
- its salts
- any substance that contains the chemical moiety C₆F₁₃SO₂⁻ as one of its structural elements and that potentially degrades to PFHxS.

As mentioned above, the POPRC has prepared an initial indicative list of substances covered by the term 'PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds'. This list is included in the document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/INF/9: Initial indicative list of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.⁶

Description and uses

PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds have been intentionally used at least in the following applications:

- aqueous film-forming foams (AFFFs) for fire fighting
- metal plating
- textiles, leather, and upholstery
- polishing and cleaning/washing agents
- coatings, impregnation/proofing (for example. for protection from damp and fungus)
- within the manufacturing of electronics and semiconductors.

Other potential use categories include pesticides, flame retardants, paper and packaging, in the oil industry, and hydraulic fluids. PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds have been used in certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) based consumer products. PFHxS is and has been unintentionally produced during the electrochemical fluorination (ECF) processes of some other perfluorosulfonic acids, mainly PFOS.

In many applications, PFHxS has been used as a replacement for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). For further information on the uses of PFHxS, see the documents UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.1: Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its fourteenth meeting - Risk profile on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/7/Add.1: Report of the Persistent Organic

⁶ Available under the Information Documents tab in the Meeting documents section of the Fifteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC.15) webpage on the Stockholm Convention website at:
<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC15/Overview/tabid/8052/Default.aspx>

Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its fifteenth meeting: risk management evaluation on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.⁷

Possible exemptions

There are no specific exemptions available with this listing that would allow continued import or production of PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds.

Current use and status in New Zealand

There are no approvals under Part 5 of the HSNO Act for PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds, and there is no information available on any current manufacture, import, export, or use of the substance. However, a number of PFHxS salts and related compounds are listed in the EPA's New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals (NZIoC).⁸

While these compounds are not approved as chemicals in their own right, it is possible that they may have been imported as component chemicals in products covered by an EPA group standard.

The substances listed in the NZIoC are included in the table below.

CAS number	Chemical name
3871-99-6	1-Hexanesulfonic acid, 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-tridecafluoro-, potassium salt
70225-16-0	1-Hexanesulfonic acid, 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-tridecafluoro-, compd. with 2,2'-iminobis[ethanol] (1:1)
34455-03-3	1-Hexanesulfonamide, N-ethyl-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-tridecafluoro-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-
52166-82-2	1-Propanaminium, N,N,N-trimethyl-3-[[tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]amino]-, chloride
56372-23-7	Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), .alpha.-[2-[ethyl[(tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]amino]ethyl]-.omega.-hydroxy-
67584-53-6	Glycine, N-ethyl-N-[(tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]-, potassium salt
68227-98-5	2-Propenoic acid, 4-[methyl[(tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]amino]butyl ester
68555-75-9	1-Hexanesulfonamide, 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-tridecafluoro-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-methyl-

⁷ Available under the Meeting report tab on, respectively: the Fourteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC.14) webpage on the Stockholm Convention website at: <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC14/Overview/tabid/7398/Default.aspx>

and the Fifteenth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC.15) webpage on the Stockholm Convention website at:

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC15/Overview/tabid/8052/Default.aspx>

⁸ www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/new-zealand-inventory-of-chemicals-nzioc

68891-98-5	Chromium, diaquatetrachloro[.mu.-[N-ethyl-N-[(tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]glycinato-.kappa.O:.kappa.O']]-.mu.-hydroxybis(2-propanol)di-
68957-58-4	1-Propanaminium, N,N,N-trimethyl-3-[[tridecafluorohexyl)sulfonyl]amino]-, iodide

Any remaining unused chemicals containing PFHxS-related compounds will need to be disposed of or destroyed in an environmentally sound manner once PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds are listed in Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act.

Consultation questions

Included below are the questions we would welcome your feedback on. These questions are included in our online submission form. We also welcome general comments on any issues we have not covered in our questions.

1. Do you agree that PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds be listed in Schedule 2A of the HSNO Act?
2. Do you have any information regarding PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds, in particular, on:
 - current use in New Zealand
 - stockpiles, as chemicals or products
 - waste stocks containing PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds
 - sites contaminated by PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds
 - products being used that may contain PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds
 - imports of, or products/articles containing, PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds
 - exports of, or products/articles containing, PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds?
3. If so, please provide further details.
4. Do you have any information on any articles in use in New Zealand that contain PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds?
5. If so, please provide further details.

Why we list Stockholm Convention chemicals

Best international practices

The POPRC is responsible for the scientific evaluation of POPs considered for listing under the Stockholm Convention. This assessment includes evaluating the availability of alternatives and best international practices for managing specific POPs as well as socioeconomic considerations.

There are extensive reports and guidance materials prepared by the POPRC on the Stockholm Convention website: <http://chm.pops.int/>

This information is summarised in draft decision documents that are considered by the parties when making listing decisions (see Appendix 1). By listing new POPs, New Zealand adopts best international practice for regulating them.

Benefits

The benefits to New Zealand in listing PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds as a POP include:

- reducing New Zealanders' exposure to this chemical
- ensuring negligible amounts of the chemical appear in our primary exports
- ensuring New Zealand continues to comply with international obligations and best practices for the safe management of hazardous substances.

Costs

The costs to New Zealand in listing PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds are considered to be low.

- the use of this chemical in New Zealand is thought to be negligible
- the supply of any products containing the chemical will decline as other countries eliminate its use and implement their obligations under the Stockholm Convention
- the cost of switching to alternatives is likely to be insignificant. Before listing this chemical, the POPRC found that alternatives are becoming available at reasonable cost.

Appendix 1: More information

The Stockholm Convention website: <http://chm.pops.int/>

The following webpages on the Stockholm Convention's website provide a general introduction to POPs under the convention:

- What are POPs?: <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ThePOPs/tabid/673/Default.aspx>
- The new POPs under the Stockholm Convention:
<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ThePOPs/TheNewPOPs/tabid/2511/Default.aspx>

More detailed information on the POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention is included in the reports and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the POPRC. The risk profile and risk management evaluation prepared by the POPRC contains information on past use, regulatory status, alternatives, and risks associated with PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds.

The risk profile on PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds is document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.1: Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its fourteenth meeting - Risk profile on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds:

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC14/Overview/tabid/7398/Default.aspx>

The risk management evaluation on PFHxS, its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds is document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/7/Add.1: Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its fifteenth meeting: risk management evaluation on perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS related compounds:

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/Meetings/POPRC15/Overview/tabid/8052/Default.aspx>

Ministry for the Environment. 2022. *New Zealand's Updated National Implementation Plan: Under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. URL:

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-updated-national-implementation-plan-under-the-stockholm-convention-on-persistent-organic-pollutants-2022/>

Appendix 2: Stockholm Convention decision on new listing

Below is the text of the decision (Decision SC-10/13) of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention listing perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds in Annex A of the convention. Also included is the text of the decision (Decision SC-10/14) with the actions related to the chemical.

SC-10/13: Listing of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,⁹

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds be listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants without specific exemptions,¹⁰

Decides to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list therein PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds without specific exemptions by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds	Production <i>Use</i>	None <i>None</i>

“Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds” means the following:

- (i) Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (CAS No. 355-46-4, PFHxS), including branched isomers;
- (ii) Its salts;
- (iii) Any substance that contains the chemical moiety $C_6F_{13}SO_2^-$ as one of its structural elements and that potentially degrades to PFHxS.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/7/Add.1.

¹⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.10/12, annex.

SC-10/14: Actions related to perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts, and PFHxS-related compounds

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision SC-10/13, by which it decided to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds without specific exemptions,

1. Notes that, in order to support Parties and facilitate the identification of substances and understanding of the listing of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, an initial indicative list of substances has been prepared;¹¹
2. Invites Parties and others to take into account the information available in the initial indicative list of substances and to provide further information regarding the identification of substances covered by the listing of PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds;
3. Requests the Secretariat to compile, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the information submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision, and to establish an indicative list of PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, make it available on the Convention website, and update it periodically;
4. Urges Parties that, when replacing fire-fighting foams containing PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, they consider that fluorine-based fire-fighting foams could have negative environmental, human health and socioeconomic impacts owing to their persistency and mobility.

¹¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/INF/9, annex.

Further information

More detailed information is available on our website at www.epa.govt.nz or by contacting us directly.

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