

POPRC-9/5: Process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group to undertake the activities requested in paragraph 3 of decision SC-6/4 and paragraph 5 (d) (ii) of decision SC-6/7 and agrees to work in accordance with the terms of reference set out in section II of the annex to the present decision;
2. *Endorses* the terms of reference for the preparation of a report by the Secretariat for the evaluation of information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride set out in section III of the annex to the present decision;
3. *Encourages* the Secretariat and the ad hoc working group established in paragraph 1 of the present decision to collaborate to ensure that both the report on the assessment of alternatives referred to in paragraph 3 of decision SC-6/4 and the report on information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride referred to in the terms of reference set out in section III of the annex to the present decision are prepared in a manner that facilitates the evaluation by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions contained in Annex B to the Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B;
4. *Invites* parties and observers in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support for the Secretariat to engage a consultant to assist in undertaking the activities requested in paragraph 6 of the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4.

Annex to decision POPRC-9/5

Terms of reference for the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and the preparation of a report for the evaluation of information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

I. Introduction

1. Paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants provides that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions listed in Annex B on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information. Paragraph 6 of part III of Annex B states that the evaluation shall take place no later than 2015 and every four years thereafter in conjunction with regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, every four years each party that uses and/or produces PFOS, its salts or PFOSF shall report on progress made to eliminate those chemicals and submit information on such progress to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to and in the process of reporting under Article 15 of the Convention.
3. By paragraph 1 of decision SC-6/4, the Conference of the Parties adopted a process for the evaluation of the continued need for PFOS, its salt and PFOSF. As part of that process the Conference of the Parties requested:

(a) The Secretariat to analyse information submitted by parties, and any other pertinent and credible information available, to prepare a preliminary report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF to facilitate the Committee in undertaking such an assessment, and to prepare a draft report on the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

(b) The Committee to undertake an assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, on the basis of information specified in paragraph 5 (c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention, and to provide comments on the draft report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF developed by the Secretariat.

4. The present terms of reference pertain to the following assessments:

(a) An assessment by the Committee of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF to assist the Conference of the Parties in undertaking an evaluation of the continued need for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, applying the methodology used in its assessment of alternatives to endosulfan.¹ This assessment will be based on information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and their related chemicals;²

(b) An assessment by the Secretariat of information for the process for the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including recommendations for any modification to that process, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

II. Assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

A. Action by the Secretariat

5. The Secretariat is to:

(a) Collect and compile information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and their related chemicals, from parties and observers, using the format set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/10/Rev.1;

(b) On the advice of and in consultation with the ad hoc working group:

(i) Prepare an outline for the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;

(ii) Collect relevant information to support the further evaluation of those alternatives and their related chemicals identified in the technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals in open applications³ as being of potential concern with regard to their effects on health and the environment;

(iii) Apply the methodology mentioned in paragraph 4 (a) above and develop a draft preliminary report on the basis of information collected pursuant to paragraphs 5 (a) and 5 (b) (ii) above;

(iv) Prepare a preliminary report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the ad hoc working group.

B. Action by the ad hoc working group

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/28.

² Related chemicals are chemicals that contain the structural element PFOS in their molecular structure and are or were produced with PFOSF as a starting or intermediate material.

³ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/17/Rev.1.

6. The ad hoc working group is to:

(a) Agree on an outline for the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;

(b) Advise the Secretariat in undertaking the activities described in paragraph 5 (b) above;

(c) Review and provide comments on the draft preliminary report prepared by the Secretariat on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Committee at its tenth meeting;

C. Action by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its tenth meeting

7. The Committee is to undertake an assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, based on the preliminary report prepared by the Secretariat, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

D. Workplan

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Collect and compile information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in accordance with paragraphs 5 (a) and 5 (b) above.	Secretariat	30 October 2013–31 January 2014 ⁴
Agree on an outline for the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF prepared by the Secretariat.	Working group	30 October 2013–31 December 2013
Apply the methodology for the assessment of the alternatives to available information ⁵	Secretariat	15 January 2014–31 May 2014
Draft a preliminary report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and make it available to the working group members.	Secretariat	10 June 2014
Provide comments on the draft preliminary report.	Working group	24 June 2014
Finalize the preliminary report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.	Secretariat	5 July 2014
Assess alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF based on the preliminary report and finalize a report on the assessment.	Committee	27–31 October 2014
Finalize the report for the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.	Secretariat	30 November 2014

III. Preparation of a report for the evaluation of information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

A. Action by the Secretariat

8. The Secretariat is to:

(a) In accordance with decision SC-6/4, collect and compile information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF from parties as follows:

⁴ The deadline set out in decision SC-6/4 is March 2014; parties and observers are invited to submit information by 31 January 2014 to facilitate the subsequent steps of the workplan set out in section D.

⁵ Including information contained in the guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/11/Rev.1) as adopted by the Committee at its ninth meeting and the technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and their related chemicals in open applications (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/17/Rev.1).

(i) Information on the progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention;

(ii) Information on the progress made in building the capacity of countries to move safely to reliance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;

(b) Undertake an assessment of information for the preparation of a report for the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF by the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Develop a draft report on the assessment, taking into consideration the report being prepared by the Committee on its assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;

(d) Finalize a report for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF by the Conference of the Parties based on the comments by the Committee on the draft report.

B. Action by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its tenth meeting

9. The Committee is to provide comments on the draft report prepared by the Secretariat for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.

C. Workplan

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Collect and compile information on PFOS from parties under Article 15 and other information specified in paragraph 5 (d) of part III of Annex B.	Secretariat	30 October 2013– 31 August 2014
Prepare a draft report for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.	Secretariat	30 September 2014
Provide comments on the draft report for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.	Committee	27–31 October 2014
Finalize the report for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.	Secretariat	30 November 2014