

# DRAFT

January 22, 2004

## **Fifth Session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention for Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**

The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) aims to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm. It establishes the principle that export of a chemical covered by the Convention can only take place with the prior informed consent of the importing party.

Canada acceded to the Convention in August 2002, and PIC provisions are implemented in Canada by the Export of Substances Under the Rotterdam Convention Regulations of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* 1999. These regulations apply to both industrial chemicals and pesticides. The Convention will enter into force on February 24, 2004.

The fifth session of the Interim Chemical Review Committee (ICRC) is scheduled for February 2-6, 2004. The agenda for ICRC-5 includes the review of notifications from member countries of final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict a chemical, consideration of draft decision guidance documents, as well as discussions of outcomes from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and operational procedures.

Regarding the review of notifications, the Committee will review the information provided in the notifications in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II of the Convention. The list of chemicals for which notifications are to be reviewed at the February meeting include dimefox, endrin, endosulfan, mevinphos and vinclozolin. Endosulfan and vinclozolin are currently registered for use as pesticides in Canada. Chemicals meeting the criteria will be recommended to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to be made subject to the interim PIC procedure.

You may obtain further information, including background information, a copy of the Rotterdam Convention, and meeting documents for agenda items, on the PIC homepage [www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int).

If you have any general questions concerning the Rotterdam Convention on PIC or the operation of the ICRC, please contact Lars Juergensen of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency by phone at (613) 736-3697 or by email at [Lars.Juergensen@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Lars.Juergensen@hc-sc.gc.ca).