



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Pest
Management
Regulatory
Agency

Agence de
réglementation
de la lutte
antiparasitaire

Dear Stakeholder,

The purpose of this letter is bring to your attention Canada's current activities under the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC).

Canada acceded in 2002, and the Convention entered into force on February 24, 2004. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency and Environment Canada cooperatively implement the provisions of the Convention through the Export of Substances Under the Rotterdam Convention Regulations of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), 1999. These regulations apply to both industrial chemicals and pesticides, though PMRA remains the authority for pesticide related issues and activities under the Convention.

The Convention 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.

The Convention also requires Parties to submit to the Convention secretariat notifications for regulatory actions taken domestically. In August 2005, The Pest Management Regulatory Agency submitted notifications to the PIC secretariat on regulatory actions taken for alachlor, allyl alcohol, cyhexatin, dibromochloropropane (DBCP), dinoseb, endrin, ethylene dichloride, furfural and tributyl tin compounds. In order to meet Canada's obligations to the Rotterdam Convention, these substances will be added to Schedule 3 of CEPA 1999.

The Convention creates an expert body, the Chemical Review Committee, in order to evaluate the scientific basis for including candidate chemicals in the PIC procedure, and makes recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 13-17, 2006. Agenda items relevant to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency include the review of notifications of regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict a chemical, and discussion of outcomes and directions from the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Notifications, including some Canadian notifications, to be reviewed at the February meeting include alachlor, tributyl tin, cyhexatin, DBCP, dicofol, mirex, endosulfan, methyl parathion and 4-nitrobiphenyl. For chemicals meeting the criteria of Annex II, a decision guidance document will be drafted intersessionally and the chemical will be subsequently recommended to the Conference of the Parties to be made subject to the PIC procedure. The Conference of the Parties then decides whether or not a substance is to be added to Annex III of the Convention.

Canada

In Canada, exporters of substances listed on Annex III of the Convention or Schedule 3 of CEPA are subject to the provisions of the Export of Substances Under the Rotterdam Convention Regulations, which use a permit system to ensure that Canadian obligations to the Rotterdam Convention are met. Further information on the Canadian Regulations is available from Environment Canada at

www.ec.gc.ca/CEPAREgistry/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=69. [english]

www.ec.gc.ca/RegistreLCPE/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=69. [french]

Further information on the Rotterdam Convention, including background information, a copy of the Rotterdam Convention, and meeting documents for the Chemical Review Committee, is available from the Rotterdam Convention homepage at www.pic.int.

If you have any questions concerning the Rotterdam Convention or the upcoming meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, please contact me as indicated below.

Sincerely,

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