

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects on human health or to the environment.

The Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), was adopted on 24 June 1998 under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The POPs Protocol entered into force on 23 October 2003. The Aarhus Protocol on POPs bans the production and use of certain POPs, others are scheduled for elimination at a later stage: http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/pops_h1.html.

The Stockholm Convention on POPs was adopted in May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004. In contrast to the regional UNECE Protocol on POPs, the Stockholm Convention is an international treaty that also aims to eliminate or restrict the production, use and release of POPs: <http://www.pops.int>.

European Union Regulation (EU) 2019/1021, which has recasted Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 on persistent organic pollutants, aligns Community legislation with the provisions laid down in the international agreements on POPs. The regulation goes beyond these provisions, for instance regarding the disposal of wastes containing POPs. The regulation is legally binding and directly applicable in all EU Member States.

Aside from prohibition/restriction of production and use of POPs, countries will have additional reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention which comprise the establishment of a national implementation plan and an action plan on measures to reduce POPs. The action plan includes an evaluation of current releases, the development of source inventories and release estimates. Its purpose is to assess the success of these measures.

The following chemicals are listed in the annexes of the Stockholm Convention (Annex A: Elimination, Annex B: Restriction, Annex C: Unintentional production) and the above mentioned EU regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Annex I: Prohibition of production, placing on the market and use, Annex II: Subject to Restriction, Annex III: Subject to release reduction provisions):

1. Aldrin, CAS No. 309-00-2 (Annex A / Annex I)
2. Chlordane, CAS No. 57-74-9 (Annex A / Annex I)

3. Chlordecone, CAS No. 143-50-0 (Annex A / Annex I)
4. DDT (1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethane), CAS No. 50-29-3 (Annex B / Annex I)
5. Decabromodiphenyl ether, Bis(pentabromophenyl) ether (decaBDE), CAS No. 1163-19-5 (Annex A / Annex I)
6. Dicofol CAS No. 115-32-2 (Annex A)
7. Dieldrin, CAS No. 60-57-1 (Annex A / Annex I)
8. Endosulfan and its related isomers, CAS No. 115-29-7, CAS No. 959-98-8, CAS No. 33213-65-9 (Annex A / Annex I)
9. Endrin, CAS No. 72-20-8 (Annex A / Annex I)
10. Heptabromodiphenyl ether (heptaBDE), CAS No. 446255-22-7, CAS No. 207122-16-5, CAS No. 68928-80-3 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
11. Heptachlor, CAS No. 76-44-8 (Annex A / Annex I)
12. Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB), CAS No. 36355-01-8 (Annex A / Annex I)
13. Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD, HBCD) ('Hexabromocyclododecane' means: hexabromocyclododecane, 1,2,5,6,9,10-hexabromocyclododecane and its main diastereoisomers: alpha-hexabromocyclododecane; beta-hexabromocyclododecane; and gamma-hexabromocyclododecane), CAS No. 25637-99-4, 3194-55-6, 134237-50-6, 134237-51-7, 134237-52-8 (Annex A / Annex I)
14. Hexabromodiphenyl ether (hexaBDE), CAS No. 68631-49-2, CAS-No. 207122-15-4, CAS-No. 36483-60-0 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
15. Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), CAS No. 118-74-1 (Annex A, C / Annex I, III)
16. Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD), CAS No. 87-68-3 (Annex A, C / Annex I, III)
17. α -Hexachlorocyclohexane (α -HCH), CAS No. 319-84-6 (Annex A / Annex I)
18. β -Hexachlorocyclohexane (β -HCH), CAS No. 319-85-7 (Annex A / Annex I)
19. Lindane (γ -Hexachlorocyclohexane, γ -HCH), CAS No. 58-89-9, 608-73-1 (Annex A / Annex I)

20. Mirex, CAS No. 2385-85-5 (Annex A / Annex I)
21. Pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE), CAS No. 60348-60-9, CAS No. 32534-81-9 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
22. Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB), CAS No. 608-93-5 (Annex A, C / Annex I, III)
23. Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters, CAS No. 87-86-5 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
24. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, CAS No. 1763-23-1, CAS No. 307-35-7 and others (Annex B);
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its derivatives (PFOS) C₈F₁₇SO₂X (X = OH, Metal salt (O-M⁺), halide, amide, and other derivatives including polymers) CAS No. 1763-23-1, CAS No. 307-35-7 and others (Annex I)
25. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, CAS No. 335-67-1 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
26. Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds (CAS No. 355-46-4 and others) (Annex C / Annex III)
27. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), CAS No. 1336-36-3 and others (Annex A, C / Annex I, III)
28. Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD) (Annex C / Annex III)
29. Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF) (Annex C / Annex III)
30. Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), CAS No. 70776-03-3 and others (Annex A, C / Annex I, III)
31. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) (Annex III)
32. Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), Alkanes C₁₀-C₁₃, chloro, CAS No. 85535-84-8 (Annex A / Annex I)
33. Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (tetraBDE), CAS No. 5436-43-1, CAS No. 40088-47-9 and others (Annex A / Annex I)
34. Toxaphene, CAS No. 8001-35-2 (Annex A / Annex I)

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**Statement on Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**



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