

List of chemicals subject to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC)

39 chemicals are in Annex III and subject to the PIC procedure, many more will be added in future.

Pesticides

2,4,5-T and its salts and esters, Aldrin, Binapacryl, Captafol, Chlordane, Chlordimeform, Chlorobenzilate, DDT, Dieldrin, Dinoseb and its salts and esters, Dinitro-ortho-cresol (DNOC) and its salts (such as ammonium salt, potassium salt and sodium salt), EDB (1,2-dibromoethane), Ethylene dichloride, Ethylene oxide, Fluoroacetamide, HCH (mixed isomers), Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene, Lindane (gamma-HCH), Mercury Compounds, Monocrotophos, Parathion, Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, Toxaphene

Severely hazardous pesticide formulations

Methamidophos (Soluble liquid formulations of the substance that exceed 600 g active ingredient/l), Methyl-parathion (emulsifiable concentrates (EC) with at or above 19.5% active ingredient and dusts at or above 1.5% active ingredient), Phosphamidon (Soluble liquid formulations of the substance that exceed 1000 g active ingredient/l), Dustable powder formulations containing a combination of Benomyl at or above 7%, Carbofuran at or above 10% and Thiram at or above 15%

Industrial chemicals

Actinolite, Amosite, Anthophyllite, Crocidolite and Tremolite asbestos, Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBBs), Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Polychlorinated Terphenyls (PCTs), Tetraethyl lead, Tetramethyl lead, Tris(2,3 dibromopropyl)phosphate

towards responsible trade



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



The Rotterdam Convention is served by a Secretariat jointly managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme:



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the need

With tens of thousands of chemicals and pesticides on the world market governments have their hands full especially as global trade expands each year. Countries lacking adequate infrastructure to manage chemicals are particularly vulnerable. Improper use, inadequate storage and control, can lead to environmental damage, serious illness, sick and absent farm workers and death while obsolete stockpile clean-up operations can be very expensive. A key challenge for countries is to balance the benefits and risks when taking national decisions on chemicals.

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

the objective

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. The Convention contributes to the environmentally sound use of such chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

the benefit

The Convention prevents unwanted trade in the chemicals included in the legally binding prior informed consent (PIC) procedure. It enables member governments to alert each other to potential dangers by exchanging information on banned or severely restricted chemicals and to take informed decisions on them. It makes the international trade in hazardous chemicals more transparent and less vulnerable to abuse through its export notification provisions and by encouraging harmonized labeling of exported chemicals. The Convention also calls for the provision of technical assistance to help establish the infrastructure and capacity necessary to safely manage chemicals.

The Convention encourages nations to help each other to safely manage chemicals.

The global chemicals industry and trade.

An estimated 1-2 million chemical preparations are on sale around the world today.

After the automotive sector, the chemicals industry is the world's largest manufacturing industry, with annual sales of US\$1.6 trillion. International trade accounts for US\$480 billion in sales. Due to poor reporting and monitoring, it is difficult to estimate what part of that international trade is in chemicals hazardous to humans and the environment.

The Rotterdam Convention was initially inspired by a North-South dilemma in which wealthier countries with bans on certain life-threatening chemicals continued to sell them abroad. However, in recent years South-South trade has increased between newly emerging economies, where chemicals production is rising, and poorer countries. In both instances less-advantaged importing countries often lack the means to manage hazardous chemicals throughout their life cycle, from importation through use and safe disposal.



The RC, trade and hazardous chemicals.

Death, disability and birth defects are among the dangers toxic pesticides and industrial chemicals pose to humans and environment.

Deep concern over global traffic of certain hazardous chemicals has spurred international acceptance of the Rotterdam Convention.

This United Nations Convention addresses the export and import of hazardous chemicals and, by implication, their use and regulation. It deals with chemicals that are banned or severely restricted in some countries (particularly in industrialized regions) but that are still exported to other countries (particularly in developing regions).

Together, the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions can help countries to manage hazardous chemicals throughout their life-cycle.

Rotterdam Convention provides early warning on dangerous chemicals and prevents the unwanted international trade on certain chemicals.

Stockholm Convention controls and eliminates production and use of certain chemicals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Basel Convention limits toxic trade in hazardous wastes and ensures proper disposal of wastes.

An early warning system.

The Rotterdam Convention's approach is to stop problems with hazardous chemicals before they start, by impeding exports of unwanted hazardous chemicals to countries that cannot manage them. Doing so will help reduce:

accidental deaths and injuries among users who too often are unequipped to handle hazardous chemicals safely;
damage to the environment;
the creation of dangerous, forgotten stockpiles of obsolete and unwanted hazardous chemicals, particularly pesticides;
growth in the world's toxic waste disposal problem.

The Convention is an **early warning system** that empowers poorer nations to take their own informed decisions on toxic chemical imports by providing:
information on other countries' decisions to ban or severely restrict certain chemicals;
information on other countries' experiences with severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
the means to stop unwanted imports;
the requirement that exporting countries respect other countries' decisions on imports.

