

## **Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its fifth meeting**

### **Annex III**

#### **Rationales for those chemicals for which only one notification met the criteria of Annex II**

**B. Phorate: rationale for the conclusion by the Committee that  
the notification for phorate (CAS No. 298-02-2) from Canada  
meets all the criteria of Annex II to the Rotterdam Convention**

1. In reviewing the notification of final regulatory action by Canada, together with the supporting documentation provided by the Party, the Committee was able to confirm that the action had been taken to protect the environment.
2. The notification and supporting documentation identified phorate as a pesticide. It was used in Canada as an insecticide on corn, lettuces, beans, rutabagas and potatoes.
3. The Committee established that the final regulatory action had been taken on the basis of a risk evaluation and that the evaluation had been based on a review of scientific data. The available documentation demonstrated that the data had been generated in accordance with scientifically recognized methods and that the data reviews had been performed and documented in accordance with generally recognized scientific principles and procedures. It also showed that the final regulatory action had been based on chemical-specific risk evaluations taking into account the conditions of exposure within Canada.
4. Phorate is highly toxic to all terrestrial and aquatic species tested. Incident reports of bird and mammal fatalities in Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland support the conclusion that phorate presents a significant risk to birds and wildlife. Surface broadcast application presents the greatest risk owing to the large number of exposed granules. Although soil incorporation is expected to lower the risk of terrestrial and aquatic exposure, it nevertheless presents a very high risk owing to unincorporated granules remaining exposed on the surface. The risk to small and moderate-sized birds and small or moderate-sized mammals remains high to very high with either method of application. Owing to its extreme toxicity to all organisms tested, the very high risk to moderate and smaller sized birds and mammals, the incident reports of bird and mammal mortalities (including large raptors in Canada), in addition to the persistence and mobility of the toxic sulfoxide and sulfone transformation products, Canada has concluded that the use of phorate in the country presents a high risk to the environment. Additional information on toxicity for aquatic organisms was also given in the supporting documentation provided by Canada. (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.5/9/Add.1.)
5. The Committee concluded that the final regulatory action taken by Canada on the basis of the available supporting documentation provided a sufficiently broad basis to merit including phorate in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention in the pesticide category. It noted that the action had led to a decrease in the quantities of the chemicals used in the notifying Party. Use of phorate on four of five crops had been banned. The only remaining allowed use was to control wireworm on potato.

6. There was no indication that there were any industrial uses of phorate in Canada.
7. The Committee also took into account that the considerations underlying the final regulatory action were not of limited applicability since the uses on four of five crops had been banned. On the basis of information provided to the members at the fifth meeting of the Committee and other available information, the Committee concluded that there was evidence of ongoing international trade in phorate.
8. The Committee noted that the final regulatory action was not based on concerns about intentional misuse of phorate.
9. At its fifth meeting, the Committee concluded that the notification of final regulatory action on phorate by Canada had met the information requirements of Annex I and all the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention.