



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT

Implementation of Rotterdam Convention in the Republic of Armenia

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Implementation of Rotterdam Convention in Armenia

The Republic of Armenia ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade in 2003 and undertook obligations for its implementation.

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There is a number of Governmental Decisions related to the Rotterdam Convention:

- ▶ Republic of Armenia Government Decision No. 1508-N dated October 29, 2004 "On implementation of obligations of the Republic of Armenia arising from the UN Rotterdam Convention signed on September 10, 1998";
- ▶ Decision of the Government of the RoA No. 293-N of March 17, 2005 "On approval of the List of chemicals and pesticides regulated by Rotterdam Convention and banned in the Republic of Armenia";

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- ▶ Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 930-N dated September 8, 2016”On amendments to the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approval of the List of chemicals and pesticides regulated by Rotterdam Convention and banned in the Republic of Armenia (No. 293-N of March 17, 2005)”.

The List of chemicals and pesticides the use, import / export of which is prohibited was approved by the above-mentioned decisions.

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- ▶ According to the Order of the Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia the Designated National Authority (DNA) on chemicals was assigned, while the DNA on pesticides was assigned from the Ministry of Economy.

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- ▶ Decision of the Republic of Armenia Government (No. 90-N of February 5, 2015) “On approval of the List of certain products/ goods prohibited and subject to restriction for the transit movement by the customs territory of the Republic of Armenia, Export and Import Licenses and Application Forms; on establishing the peculiarities of issuing Export and Import Licenses for certain products; and on changes in Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 327-N of March 15, 2007”;
- ▶ Decision of the Republic of Armenia Government “On recognition of the competent body establishing and maintaining the Register of chemicals and mixtures in the Republic of Armenia” (No. 550-L dated April 15, 2021).

CHALLENGES IN THE AREA OF CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

- ❖ In Armenia there is no Law “On Chemicals”.
- ▶ There is a “List of banned plant protection means, including persistent organic pollutants”:
- ▶ Decision of the Board of Eurasian Economic Commission dated October 6, 2015; No. 131 “On measure of non-tariff regulation” 1.4. Plant protection means and other persistent organic pollutants banned for import”.

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- ▶ There is no unified registration system for chemicals in Armenia. Currently, the primary issue in the field of chemical regulation is the establishment of a unified registration system for chemicals, as the properties, quantity, human health, impact on the environment, producers and importers of chemicals. , the lack of data on sellers will not allow government agencies to effectively regulate the sector.

The unified registration system should contain comprehensive data on the composition, properties, quantity, chemicals produced, imported, exported (imported) and sold in Armenia, produced in Armenia, imported (if necessary, also exported from Armenia).

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- ▶ There is no chemicals classification system in Armenia. The classification system of chemicals is the classification of chemicals based on their degree of danger to human health and the environment.
- ▶ In the field of chemicals use, it is extremely important to inform end-users, consumers about the properties of chemicals, their health, their impact on the environment, the workers involved in the use of chemicals, and other affected persons.

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- ▶ It is necessary to establish requirements by law for the labeling of chemicals on the properties and effects of chemicals, which will ensure effective awareness about the properties and effects, reduce the risks. The Government should encourage the replacement of the most hazardous chemicals produced or imported with less hazardous ones.

To solve the above-mentioned problems it is necessary:

1) Develop and adopt the RA Law “On Chemicals”, which will provide for regulation of chemicals safe/ sound handling in the Republic of Armenia;

- ▶ establishment of a unified system for chemicals registration;
- ▶ setting forth requirements on chemicals classification;
- ▶ setting forth requirement for chemicals labelling that will ensure efficient system for notification of the final consumer about the hazardous properties of chemicals;
- ▶ integrated regulation of chemicals import and export system;
- ▶ establishing and clearly differentiating authorities/ responsibilities of state governance bodies in the area of chemicals handling;
- ▶ establishing the rights and responsibilities of persons involved in the chemicals handling area;
- ▶ setting forth responsibility for violation of legislative requirements on chemicals handling.



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- ▶ 2) The requirements to be set by the above-mentioned legal acts for the organizations producing, importing and selling chemicals should be reasonable, should not increase the expenses of the economic entities as much as possible, should not complicate the administration.
- ▶ The Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the Concept of the “Law of Chemicals” (Decision No. 1265-L dated November 8, 2018).
- ▶ The Law will regulate registration of chemicals, responsibilities of different stakeholders, etc.

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Legislation for pesticides registration is in place:

- ▶ Republic of Armenia Law “On Phytosanitary” contains requirement on state registration of pesticides and farm chemicals as well as list of documents required by Commission for issuing conclusion on pesticides and farm chemicals registration; on the base of conclusion the state registration of mentioned substances is done.
- ▶ Order of the head of State Service for Food Safety of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia No. 02-N dated February 25, 2011 “On approval of the List of chemical and biological plant protection means allowed for use in the Republic of Armenia”.

National Training

In 2018 the National Training and capacity building activities to assist in the development of a framework for the lifecycle management of industrial chemicals (import, use, storage, transport and disposal) under the Rotterdam Convention was held in Armenia by UNEP.

The overall objectives of the National Training were as follows:

- ▶ To raise awareness on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure and the newly listed industrial chemicals (PFOS, octabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether); How to make assessments of exposures with respect to these new chemicals.
- ▶ To facilitate the strengthening of existing national structures and mechanisms for cooperation and coordination for the sustainable management of chemicals in an integrated manner that involves all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the chemicals and wastes conventions.

Training objectives (cont.)

- ▶ To foster cooperation and facilitate dialogue between the DNA and stakeholders on the challenges faced in chemicals management and the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to share experiences and promote cooperation in addressing these challenges.
- ▶ To provide tools and approaches that can be used to apply precaution in industrial chemicals management. Demonstration and use of the Rotterdam Convention Industrial Chemicals Management Toolkit, WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit, IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management, LIRA Guidance and specific guidance for upstream chemical control legislation, etc.
- ▶ To facilitate the development of a framework and implementation plans for industrial chemicals management.

Challenges

During the Training challenges were identified:

- ▶ Financial implication (registration fees, etc.)
- ▶ Lack of policy regarding safe alternatives to toxic pesticides
- ▶ weak legislation in the field of chemicals regulation
- ▶ insufficient capacities
- ▶ exchange of information missing
- ▶ low awareness about chemicals among industry, traders, users, etc.

Solutions

- ▶ Possible solutions include:
 - ▶ "Law on chemicals" adopted
 - ▶ Secondary legislation (by-laws) developed
 - ▶ Improved legal regulation on control of chemicals
 - ▶ Awareness raising
 - ▶ Capacity building
 - ▶ Fund-raising campaigns

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- ▶ At the Training views were expressed on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
- ▶ In looking for a vision for “Beyond 2020”, participants acknowledged and reaffirmed the “2020 goal” of the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle to prevent or minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment.
- ▶ Participants agreed that vision should be consistent with UNEA resolution 1/5 and SDG 12.4, and proposed the following vision: «To avoid or minimize adverse effects of chemicals and waste to human health and the environment during the lifecycle”.

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Meeting participants agreed that the future approach should complement the 2030 SDG Agenda and reaffirm core Strategic Approach documents, such as the Dubai Declaration.

Some suggested possible principles include:

- ▶ Sustainable consumption and production/integrated life cycle approach
- ▶ Extended producer responsibility
- ▶ Sustainable chemistry
- ▶ Science-policy interface
- ▶ Participation of women, vulnerable groups, and stakeholders/inclusivity
- ▶ Protection of workers
- ▶ The right to a healthy environment
- ▶ Gender equity
- ▶ Responsible use

As to Priorities, the following was emphasized: the need for a higher quality of life, a lifecycle approach, a non-toxic environment, a thought set of prevention, no harm to public health, a need to act, safe alternatives and legislation.

- Chemicals in products
- Highly hazardous pesticides
- The development of science-based studies to inform political decisions
- Strengthened communication

As strategic objectives participants suggested the following examples of goals.

- To prevent and reduce risks and adverse impacts
- To maximize benefits of chemicals through sustainable production and use
- To increase knowledge and awareness of chemicals of concern
- To avoid the most hazardous substances, and to practice substitution
- To enhance implementation through multi-sectoral and participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building
- Develop whole of society approaches to reduce risks of chemicals and waste

Issues of the Action plan to Strengthen Chemicals Management in the Republic of Armenia:

1. Initiation of the process for coordination of chemicals management
2. Preparation and adoption of the “Law on Chemicals”
3. Providing information and training opportunities to industry and trade
4. Develop the Chemicals registry
 - Develop the registration of chemicals importers and manufacturers and the chemicals they offer on the market for professional use and for use among the general public
5. Establishing poison control. Make it mandatory for chemicals importers and manufacturers to provide the Ministry of Health (*operative center*) responsible for poison control with safety data sheets for chemical substances in order to support emergency health response.
 - Develop Poison Center along lines recommended by WHO
 - Establish Poison Control Center under the Ministry of Health

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6. Implementation of GHS

- ▶ Make the rules on the Classification, labelling and safety data sheets mandatory for the placing of substances as such on the market.
- ▶ Make mandatory how certain substances are to be classified and labelled.
- ▶ Establish a GHS helpdesk at the competent authority

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In 2021 application “Strengthening National Capacity of the Republic of Armenia in Sound Chemicals and Waste Management for Implementation of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions and SAICM” prepared in the frames of the SAICM Special Programme was approved.

The Project envisages the following measures:

- ▶ **Training for DNA and enforcement authorities and stakeholders to support in implementing and enforcement of obligations under Rotterdam and Basel Conventions on the import and export of chemicals and wastes *and* Informative Training for relevant stakeholders, including private sector (business, producers) on Extended Producers Responsibility**

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- ▶ Training on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) under the Rotterdam Convention and the Basel Convention rules will also focus on economic operators and provide the necessary knowledge to meet country obligations in completing and submission of relevant notifications. The Training will facilitate in increasing coordination between DNA and enforcement authorities (customs, inspectors), raising awareness of enforcement officers on PIC procedure (import responses and export notifications) and Basel Convention rules.
- ▶ Development of comprehensive Training Programme on PIC procedure and Basel rules on import/export, notification of chemicals and waste with relevant stakeholders for DNAs, Customs Inspectors, representatives of Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources, Health and Labor Inspectorate, Food Safety Inspectorate.

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- ▶ **Training on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) under the Rotterdam Convention** and the Basel Convention rules will also focus on economic operators and provide the necessary knowledge to meet country obligations in completing and submission of relevant notifications.

Another measure is

- ▶ **Improvement and updating of national legislation related to chemicals and wastes in the framework aimed at implementing the BRS and Minamata conventions, including**
- ▶ - Expanding the List of chemicals regulated by the Rotterdam Convention

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THANK YOU!

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