

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – Current UK priorities

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Overview of UK priorities

- Polychlorinated Biphenyls
- POPs in waste streams, esp. BDEs
- Legacy issues

Obligations of the Stockholm Convention

- **2005** - UK ratified
- **2007** - 1st National Implementation Plan
 - 12 POPs, 4 unintentional by-products
 - <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/chemicals/documents/pop-nationalplan.pdf>
- **2013** - 2nd National Implementation Plan
 - 10 new POPs, 1 unintentional by-product
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-uk-national-implementation-plan-2007-for-the-stockholm-convention-on-persistent-organic-pollutants>

Listed Pesticides - Regulatory controls

Pesticide	Date banned in the UK
Aldrin	1991
Chlordane	1981
DDT	1986
Dieldrin	1981
Endrin	1991
Heptachlor	1984
Hexachlorobenzene	1981
Mirex	Never been approved for use
Toxaphene	Never been approved for use
Chlordecone	1977
Hexachlorocyclohexane (alpha, beta, gamma(lindane))	1982 – alpha and beta 2000 – 2006 depending on use
Endosulfan	2007

Industrial chemicals – regulatory controls

Chemical	Date banned
Hexabromobiphenyl	1977
Hexa bromo-diphenyl ether	2004 (Commercial grade octa BDE)
Hepta bromo-diphenyl ether	2004 (Commercial grade octa BDE)
Penta bromo-diphenyl ether	2003 (Commercial grade penta BDE)
Tetra bromo-diphenyl ether	2003 (Commercial grade penta BDE)
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	2000 to phase out PCB containing equipment by 2010
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS-F)	2007 with exemptions (for some uses) which expire in 2015
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)	2014? With time-limited exemption for use in buildings

- Dioxins and Furans
 - by-products of combustion processes, industrial processes regulated
- Hexachlorobenzene
 - contaminant level in chlorothalonil controlled
- Pentachlorobenzene
 - quintozone not approved since 2002

Requirements of the Environmental Protection (Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls and other Dangerous Substances) (England and Wales)

Regulations 2000:

- Equipment containing PCBs > 5 litres – disposal by end of 2010 (Art 4(1)), but exemption for transformers
- Transformers where it is reasonable to assume they are contaminated 5-500ppm – may be kept until end of useful life (Art 4(3))
- Transformers with a concentration >500ppm must be decontaminated (Art 4(4))

PCB Registrations

- 75 registered holders of Contaminated Equipment
- Over 50,000 items of CE registered
- 410 items registered that are not exempt from disposal (i.e. Capacitors)
- New items still being identified each year

PCB campaigns continue



- Continuing effort to find any previously unregistered PCB sources
- Sources then tracked to ensure safe disposal

Setting concentration limits for POPs in wastes

- Proposed amendments to the waste-related annexes (IV and V) to the EU POPs Regulation EC 850/2004.
- If the concentrations exceeds the set limit the waste material must be disposed of/recovered in such a way as to ensure that the POP content is destroyed.
- Sum of tetra-, penta-, hexa- and hepta-bromodiphenyl ether concentrations likely to be set at 1 000 mg/kg.
- PFOS: 50 mg/kg
- Due to be voted in June 2014

Implementation of the new POP waste concentration limits

- WEEE
- End of life vehicles

Other priority issues

Treated timber

Buried Pesticides

Domestic burning

THANK YOU

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