The Rotterdam Convention

On the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade

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CSD 19
2 - 13 May 2011
New York, USA
Overview

1. Introduction to the Rotterdam Convention
2. Industrial chemicals management
   a) Framework for the sound management
   b) Technical assistance activities
1. Rotterdam Convention - 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 and to contribute to their environmentally sound use.
Rotterdam Convention - Scope

Chemicals *banned or severely restricted* by Parties to protect human health or the environment

*Severely hazardous pesticide formulations* (SHPF) - causing problems under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition
**PIC procedure** - Provides a national decision making process on import of hazardous chemicals in Annex III and ensures compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties

**Information exchange** – facilitation of exchange of information on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals
Rotterdam Convention - Benefits

Prevents unwanted trade
PIC procedure legally binding for importing & exporting Parties – shared responsibility, ‘levels the playing field’, Secretariat facilitates dialogue between trading partners

Early warning system
PIC Circular – global info on notifications of regulatory actions, incidents (SHPF)

Informed decision-making by importing party
DGDs provide basis for decision making process on future imports
Further info PIC Circular, other Parties
Strengthens capacity of Parties to assess risks associated with chemicals
Export notification
Exporting Parties have to inform importing Parties
opportunity to seek further info from exporting Party
Exporting Parties avoid sending unwanted chemicals to
Parties

Information accompanying export
Improved labeling and provision of safety data sheets assist
importing countries to understand and manage potential
risks – consistent with obligations under GHS
Network of DNAs
Access to DNAs in other countries with similar conditions
Opportunities to exchange experience & info re implementation of RC

Technical Assistance
Technical assistance to develop the infrastructure and capacity required to implement the Convention
Parties with more advanced systems to regulate chemicals provide technical assistance to other Parties
Currently 40 chemicals listed*

29 pesticides (e.g. DDT, chlordane, lindane, parathion, monocrotophos, ethylene oxide, dieldrin….) , 4 of which are SHPFs (e.g. liquid formulations of methamidophos, phosphamidon)

11 industrial chemicals (e.g. PCBs, tetramethyl lead, polybrominated biphenyls …)

*Note: not a ban!
Rotterdam Convention – Key players

• Designated National Authorities (DNAs)
• Conference of the Parties (COPs)
• Chemical Review Committee (CRC)
• Secretariat (UNEP & FAO)
Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in Geneva from 20-24 June 2011.

Discussion on inclusion of:

- Pesticides - endosulfan, alachlor, aldicarb
- Industrial chemicals - chrysotile asbestos
Industrial chemicals
- PFOS and its salts
  - (acid, 4 salts and the precursor – PFOS-F)
- Pentabromodiphenyl ether
  - (2 congeners – tetra and penta)
- Octabromodiphenyl ether
  - (5 congeners – hexa, hepta, octa, nona & deca)

Pesticides
- Endosulfan
- Azinphos-methyl

SHPF
- Gramoxone super- paraquat EC
2. Industrial chemicals management

Need for a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals:

- Lack of information on chemicals production, import, use, exposure and effects on human health & environment
- Coordination of data collection and storage necessary
- Problems with national coordination, priority setting
- Need to involve industry – shared responsibility
- Need to implement the GHS
- Lack of integrated life cycle chemicals legislation
Industrial chemicals management

Life cycle of chemicals

from UNITAR national profile guidance document
Industrial chemicals management - What is required?

- Primary responsibility of industry - polluter pays
- Address full life cycle of chemicals
- Responsibility of other actors – complete value chain
- Prevention (action/reaction), precaution
- Cooperation/coordination on national and international level (synergies)
- Use available information, capacities (resources) and capabilities (know how) effectively
- An efficient and enforceable framework
Industrial chemicals management - framework

- **Scope** - Industrial chemicals: new and existing chemicals, exemptions - low hazard, low risk
- **Data collection** – GLP data on hazard, effect & exposure, data base for storage and dissemination; info on incidents & accidents
- **Assessments** - hazard from GHS, risk assessment from RC, SC, Montreal Protocol
- **Risk benefit analysis** – integration of socio-economic factors
- **Risk management decision** – bans, restrictions, criteria, priorities
• Forms a basis for an integrated sound management for industrial chemicals - streamlines a mainly sectorial approach in managing industrial chemicals

• Improves coordination and synergies between national actors responsible for the sound management of chemicals and increases efficiency of sound management
Industrial chemicals management - framework (cont.)

- It facilitates implementing international efforts to improve chemicals management like SAICM and the GHS and international legally binding instruments like the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions

- It enables national risk evaluations and assessments, potentially leading to ban or restrict chemicals thus contributing to listing chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention
Industrial chemicals management - implementation

- National strategy, resources, political will, sector buy-in
- Priorities:
  - GHS implementation (for all sectors)
  - Risk assessments for bans/restrictions (RC)
  - Criteria and procedures to identify high concern chemicals (SC)
  - Environmental and work place monitoring
  - Management of major hazardous installations
  - National information system
  - Poison centers
Industrial chemicals management - implementation (cont.)

- New legislation/administrative - provisions for framework and adaptation for related sector legislation
- Building of capacity and capability – national information system, testing, evaluation and monitoring of chemicals, compliance monitoring, enforcement
- Governance - government, industry responsibility (voluntary risk management), education and participation of workers and the public
Industrial chemicals management
Technical assistance activities

• Develop practical guidance
  - National management system for industrial chemicals
• - Locating relevant international information

• Support establishment of legislative framework
  - Strengthen capacity to assess and manage risks
• - Improve implementation of the chemical MEAs
Industrial chemicals management

Technical assistance activities (cont.)

• Pilot projects established in Jordan and Botswana
• Workshops with all stakeholders
• Raise awareness on hazards & risk of industrial chemicals
• Countries drafted work plans re collection of info required to assess needs (prep for developing frameworks)
Need for the following elements was highlighted:

- Legal study for both countries necessary
- Establish national profiles in B & update it in J
- Analysis of content & role of a national framework, relation to existing sector legislation and what it can deliver (legal and institutional frameworks);
- Identify process and methodology for the development and implement of a framework for the sound management of industrial chemicals;
- Awareness-raising on economic instruments that could be used to finance the sound management of chemicals;
Second workshop planned
Priorities set in action plan
Implementation to achieve a sound framework for management of industrial chemicals
Another 4 countries to be identified for pilot projects
Awareness-raising on the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit for Chemicals, plus the OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit and IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in the sound management of chemicals
Industrial chemicals management

Technical assistance activities (cont.)

• IOMC developing a toolkit to support developing countries
• Toolkit caters to differing levels of economic development
• Is interactive and user-friendly
• Includes information on hazard identification, risk assessment, preparation of legislation, data collection, risk management, decision-making
• Experiences from pilot projects to feed into toolbox
• Toolbox to be ready by 2013
Industrial chemicals management
Forthcoming event

- Global forum on industrial chemicals management – to be held on 1st evening of COP of Rotterdam Convention – June 20, 2011
- All stakeholders to participate
- Topic: Where are we now?
« The Right to Know »

Share Responsibility

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

www.pic.int
The PIC Procedure

**NATIONAL ACTION**

- Distribution to all DNAs
- Country takes an import decision (interim or final), on the basis of information provided in the DGD
- Secretariat reviews that the relevant information concerning the decision has been provided
- Replies to the country
- Informs world of proposal (PIC Circular)

**PIC CIRCULAR,**

by chemical:
- import response of countries
- failure list: countries not having submitted a response