



UNEP



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

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 10–13 March 2008

Item 5 (b) (vi) of the provisional agenda*

**Inclusion of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention:
review of notifications of final regulatory action to ban
or severely restricted a chemical: chrysotile asbestos**

Chrysotile asbestos

Note by the Secretariat

1. Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade provides that when the Secretariat has received at least one notification from each of two prior informed consent (PIC) regions regarding a particular chemical that it has verified meet the requirements of Annex I to the Convention it shall forward them to the Chemical Review Committee. The Committee shall review the information provided in such notifications and, in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II, recommend to the Conference of the Parties whether the chemical in question should be included in Annex III and a decision guidance document drafted.
2. At its first meeting, the Chemical Review Committee reviewed three notifications of final regulatory action related to chrysotile asbestos from three different PIC regions (Europe (European Community), Latin America and Caribbean (Chile), and South West Pacific (Australia)). The Committee concluded that the three notifications met the requirements of the Convention and recommended the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III. Subsequently, a drafting group was established to develop a decision guidance document.
3. At its second meeting the Chemical Review Committee agreed the text of the draft decision guidance document, as described in the report of that meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/20).

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/1

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4. The Secretariat has subsequently received additional notifications relating to chrysotile asbestos that meet the information requirements of Annex I from two different PIC regions (Asia (Japan) and Europe (Bulgaria)). Summaries of those notifications were included in PIC Circular XXII in December 2005 and PIC Circular XXV of June 2007, respectively. The notifications, as received from the notifying countries, are contained in the annex to the present note.

5. Where available, the supporting documentation provided by Bulgaria and Japan is set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/5/Add.1 and Add.2, respectively.

6. A list of other notifications previously considered by the Chemical Review Committee is set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/INF/5.

Annex

Notification of final regulatory action for Chrysotile asbestos from Bulgaria

Notification of final regulatory action for Chrysotile asbestos from Japan



**FORM
FOR NOTIFICATION OF FINAL REGULATORY ACTION
TO BAN OR SEVERELY RESTRICT A CHEMICAL**

IMPORTANT: See instructions before filling in the form

COUNTRY: BULGARIA

PART I: PROPERTIES, IDENTIFICATION AND USES

1. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL		
1.1	Common name	Chrysotile asbestos
1.2	Chemical name according to an internationally recognized nomenclature (e.g. IUPAC), where such nomenclature exists	Chrysotile (Mg ₃ H ₂ (SiO ₄) ₂ .H ₂ O)- Naturally occurring fibrous hydrated magnesium silicate belonging to the serpentine group of minerals
1.3	Trade names and names of preparations	Asbestos; Serpentine asbestos; White asbestos
1.4	Code numbers	
1.4.1	CAS number	12001-29-5/132207-32-0
1.4.2	Harmonized System customs code	2524 00
1.4.3	Other numbers (specify the numbering system)	650-013-00-6 (Index No) 2590 (UN No)

1.5 Indication regarding previous notification on this chemical, if any	
1.5.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a first time notification of final regulatory action on this chemical.
1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a modification of a previous notification of final regulatory action on this chemical. The sections modified are: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> This notification replaces all previously submitted notifications on this chemical.
	Date of issue of the previous notification: _____

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention
Plant Protection Service
Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy

OR

Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention
UNEP Chemicals

11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH - 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+39 06) 5705 3441
Fax: (+39 06) 5705 6347
E-mail: pic@fao.org

Tel: (+41 22) 917 8183
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: pic@unep.ch

1.6 Information on hazard classification where the chemical is subject to classification requirements	
International classification systems	Hazard class
IARC	Group I (Carcinogenic to humans) (IARC, 1987)
Other classification systems	Hazard class
EU	Carc. Cat. 1; R45 (May cause cancer.) T; R48/23 (Toxic: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation.) (EC, 2001)
NTP	Known human carcinogen (US, 2001)
UN	Class 9: (Miscellaneous dangerous goods and articles); Packing group III: (Substances presenting a relatively low risk of poisoning in transport).

1.7 Use or uses of the chemical

1.7.1	<p>Ø Pesticide</p> <p>Describe the uses of the chemical as a pesticide in your country:</p>
1.7.2	<p>X Industrial</p> <p>Describe the industrial uses of the chemical in your country:</p> <p>Chrysotile is processed into products such as friction materials, asbestos-cement, cement pipe and sheet, gaskets and seals, paper and textiles.</p>

1.8 Properties

1.8.1	<p>Description of physico-chemical properties of the chemical</p> <p>Usually white to pale green yellow, pink. Usually flexible, silky and tough. Molecular mass: 554; Decomposition temperature: 450–700°C; Fusion temperature of Residual material: 1500°C; Density: 2.55 g/cm³; Resistance to acids: Undergoes fairly rapid attack; Resistance to alkalis: Very good; Tensile strength: 31 (10³ kg/cm²). Its physical and chemical properties as a mineral are observed to vary among the exploited geological deposits. The minerals that accompany the fibre in ores are many, and among these may be some varieties of fibrous amphibole. Tremolite is thought to be especially important in this respect; its form and concentration range greatly.</p>
1.8.2	<p>Description of toxicological properties of the chemical</p> <p>OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS: TLV: (For fibres longer than 5 µm with an aspect ratio equal to or greater than: 3:1 as determined by the membrane filter method at 400-450X magnification (4-mm objective) phase contrast elimination) 0.1 fibre/cc as TWA; A1; (ACGIH 2004). MAK: Carcinogen category: 1; (DFG 2004). EU OEL: 0.1 fibres/cc (EU 2003). ROUTES OF EXPOSURE: The substance can be absorbed into the body by inhalation. INHALATION RISK: Evaporation at 20°C is negligible; a harmful concentration of airborne particles can, however, be reached quickly. EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM OR REPEATED EXPOSURE: The substance may have effects on the lungs, resulting in pulmonary fibrosis and mesothelioma. This substance is carcinogenic to humans.</p>

1.8.3	Description of ecotoxicological properties of the chemical
	<p>Serpentine outcroppings occur world-wide. Mineral components, including chrysotile, are eroded through crustal processes and are transported to become a component of the water cycle, sediment population and soil profile. Chrysotile presence and concentrations have been measured in water, air and other units of the crust.</p> <p>Chrysotile and its associated serpentine minerals chemically degrade at the surface. This produces profound changes in soil pH and introduces a variety of trace metals into the environment. This has in turn produced measurable effects on plant growth, soil biota (including microbes and insects), fish and invertebrates. Some data indicate that grazing animals (sheep and cattle) undergo changes in blood chemistry following ingestion of grasses grown on serpentine outcrops.</p>

PART II: FINAL REGULATORY ACTION

2.	FINAL REGULATORY ACTION	
2.1	The chemical is:	X severely restricted
2.2	Information specific to the final regulatory action	
2.2.1	Summary of the final regulatory action	<p>The placing on the market and use of chrysotile fibres and products containing these fibres added intentionally have prohibited according to the Regulation relating to bans and restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations since 1st January 2005. The use of products containing chrysotile asbestos fibres which were already installed and/or in service before 1.01.2005 shall continue to be used until they are disposed of or reach the end of their service life, only if the products bear a label in accordance with the special provisions on the labelling of products containing asbestos under the Regulation relating to bans and restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations.</p> <p>The placing on the market and use of chrysotile is allowed for diaphragms for existing electrolysis installations until they reach the end of their service life, or until suitable asbestos-free substitutes become available, whichever is the sooner.</p>
2.2.2	Reference to the regulatory document	- Regulation relating to bans and restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (CM Decree №130 of 1.07.2002, SG 69 of 17.07.2002, as amendment by CM Decree № 156 of 7.07.2004, SG/2004)
2.2.3	Date of entry into force of the final regulatory action	1 st January 2005

2.3	Was the final regulatory action based on a risk or hazard evaluation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
	If yes, give information on such evaluation		
	Reference to the relevant documentation		

2.4	Reasons for the final regulatory action	
2.4.1	Is the reason for the final regulatory action relevant to the human health?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
	If yes, give summary of the known hazards and risks presented by the chemical to human health, including the health of consumers and workers	
	Exposure to chrysotile asbestos poses increased risks for asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma in a dose-dependent manner. No threshold has been identified for carcinogenic risks. Fibres are released during processing, installation and disposal of asbestos-containing materials.	
	Reference to the relevant documentation	IPCS, 1998
	Expected effect of the final regulatory action	Reduction of the risk and exposure for human health.
2.4.2	Is the reason for the final regulatory action relevant to the environment?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

	If yes, give summary of the known hazards and risks to the environment	
	Reference to the relevant documentation	
	Expected effect of the final regulatory action	

2.5 Category or categories where the final regulatory action has been taken		
2.5.1	Final regulatory action has been taken for the chemical category	X Industrial
	Use or uses prohibited by the final regulatory action	
	The placing on the market and use of chrysotile fibres and products containing these fibres added intentionally are prohibited.	
	Use or uses that remain allowed	
	The placing on the market and use of chrysotile is allowed for diaphragms for existing electrolysis installations until they reach the end of their service life, or until suitable asbestos-free substitutes become available, whichever is the sooner.	
2.5.2	Final regulatory action has been taken for the chemical category	Ø Pesticide
	Formulation(s) and use or uses prohibited by the final regulatory action	
	Formulation(s) and use or uses that remain allowed	

2.5.3 Estimated quantity of the chemical produced, imported, exported and used, where available.		
	Quantity per year (MT)	Year
Produced	n/a	
Imported	n/a	
Exported	n/a	
Used	n/a	

2.6	Indication, to the extent possible, of the likely relevance of the final regulatory action to other states and regions

2.7 Other relevant information that may cover:	
2.7.1	Assessment of socio-economic effects of the final regulatory action
2.7.2	Information on alternatives and their relative risks
	PolyVinylAlcohol (PVA); PolyAcrylNitryl (PAN); Aramid fibre; Fibreglass; Glass and rock wool; Carbon and graphite fibre; Wollastonite
2.7.3	Relevant additional information

PART III: GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Ministry/Department and authority responsible for issuing/enforcing the final regulatory action	
Institution	Ministry of Environment and Water
Address	Bulgaria 1000, Sofia 67, William Gladstone Str.
Telephone	+ 359 2 940 60 21

Telefax	+ 359 2 981 33 84
E-mail address	pluleva@moew.government.bg
Designated National Authority (CP)	
Institution	Ministry of Environment and Water
Address	Bulgaria 1000, Sofia 67, William Gladstone Str.
Name of person in charge	Mrs. Parvoleta Luleva
Position of person in charge	Chief expert at "Operative Control and Management of Dangerous Chemicals" Department; Directorate "Coordination of Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water"
Telephone	+ 359 2 940 60 21
Telefax	+ 359 2 981 33 84
E-mail address	pluleva@moew.government.bg
Ministry/Department and authority responsible for issuing/enforcing the final regulatory action	
Institution	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Address	Bulgaria 1040, Sofia 55, Hristo Botev Blvd.
Designated National Authority (P)	
Institution	National Plant Protection Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Address	Bulgaria 1606, Sofia 17, Hristo Botev Blvd.
Name of person in charge	Mr. Stefan Uzunov
Position of person in charge	Head of "International Cooperation" Sector National Plant Protection Service
Telephone	+359 2 953 33 60
Telefax	+359 2 95 333 60
E-mail address	s.uzunov@mbox.infotel.bg

Manoela Georgieva
Deputy Minister of
Environment and Water

Petar Nikolov
Director General of
National Plant Protection
Service

15 June 2005



FORM FOR NOTIFICATION OF FINAL REGULATORY ACTION TO BAN OR SEVERELY RESTRICT A CHEMICAL

IMPORTANT: See instructions before filling in the form

COUNTRY: JAPAN

PART I: PROPERTIES, IDENTIFICATION AND USES

1. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL		
1.1	Common name	Asbestos, chrysotile
1.2	Chemical name according to an internationally recognized nomenclature (e.g. IUPAC), where such nomenclature exists	This substance is a mixture of many individual substances and cannot be adequately represented by a single molecular structure
1.3	Trade names and names of preparations	Chrysotile; Asbestos(white); Chrysotile Asbestos
1.4	Code numbers	
1.4.1	CAS number	12001-29-5
1.4.2	Harmonized System customs code	
1.4.3	Other numbers (specify the numbering system)	UN 2590 RTECS C16478500

1.5 Indication regarding previous notification on this chemical, if any	
1.5.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a first time notification of final regulatory action on this chemical.
1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a modification of a previous notification of final regulatory action on this chemical. The sections modified are: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> This notification replaces all previously submitted notifications on this chemical. Date of issue of the previous notification: _____

1.6 Information on hazard classification where the chemical is subject to classification requirements

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention
Plant Protection Service
Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy

OR

Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention
UNEP Chemicals

11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH - 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+39 06) 5705 3441
Fax: (+39 06) 5705 6347
E-mail: pic@fao.org

Tel: (+41 22) 917 8183
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: pic@unep.ch

International classification systems	Hazard class
IARC	Group1 human carcinogen
Other classification systems	Hazard class
EU	Category1: Substances known to be carcinogenic to man.

1.7 Use or uses of the chemical	
1.7.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Describe the uses of the chemical as a pesticide in your country:
1.7.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial Describe the industrial uses of the chemical in your country: For the material to insulate before regulated.

1.8 Properties	
1.8.1	Description of physico-chemical properties of the chemical Sp gr 2.2-2.6 solubility in water: insoluble White, grey, green or yellowish fibrous solid
1.8.2	Description of toxicological properties of the chemical

	Confirmed human carcinogen
1.8.3	Description of ecotoxicological properties of the chemical

PART II: FINAL REGULATORY ACTION

2. FINAL REGULATORY ACTION	
2.1	The chemical is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> banned OR <input type="checkbox"/> severely restricted
2.2	Information specific to the final regulatory action
2.2.1	Summary of the final regulatory action Ban on use and import
2.2.2	Reference to the regulatory document Industrial Safety and Health Law article 55 and Enforcement Order of Industrial Safety and Health Law article 16
2.2.3	Date of entry into force of the final regulatory action September 1, 2006

2.3	Was the final regulatory action based on a risk or hazard evaluation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, give information on such evaluation	

	Reference to the relevant documentation

2.4	Reasons for the final regulatory action	
2.4.1	Is the reason for the final regulatory action relevant to the human health?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, give summary of the known hazards and risks presented by the chemical to human health, including the health of consumers and workers	
	Confirmed human carcinogen	
	Reference to the relevant documentation	
	IARC monograph Vol. 14, Suppl. 7; 1987, NTP 8 th report	
	Expected effect of the final regulatory action	
	Prevention of occupational cancer	

2.4.2	Is the reason for the final regulatory action relevant to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, give summary of the known hazards and risks to the environment	

	Reference to the relevant documentation
	Expected effect of the final regulatory action

2.5	Category or categories where the final regulatory action has been taken	
2.5.1	Final regulatory action has been taken for the chemical category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial
	Use or uses prohibited by the final regulatory action	
	All uses	
	Use or uses that remain allowed	
	Allowed use is as follows. 1. Seal materials that is used under a specific condition in existing facilities of chemical industry, the steel industry, nonferrous metal product manufacturing industry 2. An insulation material for rocket motors used for a missile produced in Japan 3. Seal materials used for a submarine produced in Japan 4. Raw materials of the product mentioned above These products will be banned in the future when alternative products for them are developed.	

2.5.2	Final regulatory action has been taken for the chemical category	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide
	Formulation(s) and use or uses prohibited by the final regulatory action	
	Formulation(s) and use or uses that remain allowed	

2.5.3 Estimated quantity of the chemical produced, imported, exported and used, where available.		
	Quantity per year (MT)	Year
Produced		
Imported	110 t	2005
Exported		
Used		

2.6 Indication, to the extent possible, of the likely relevance of the final regulatory action to other states and regions	

2.7 Other relevant information that may cover:	
2.7.1	Assessment of socio-economic effects of the final regulatory action

2.7.2	Information on alternatives and their relative risks	
2.7.3	Relevant additional information	

PART III : GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Ministry/Department and authority responsible for issuing/enforcing the final regulatory action	
Institution	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Address	1-2-2 kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8916, Japan
Telephone	+81-3-3502-6756
Telefax	+81-3-3502-1598
E-mail address	
Designated National Authority	
Institution	Global Environment Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Address	2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan
Name of person in charge	
Position of person in charge	
Telephone	+81-3-5501-8245
Telefax	+81-3-5501-8244
E-mail address	

Date, signature of DNA and official seal: _____

4. Aug. 2006


