



UNEP



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Distr.: General
11 January 2005

English only

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

First meeting

Geneva, 11–18 February 2005

Item 7 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Inclusion of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention:
review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban
or severely restrict a chemical: methyl parathion**

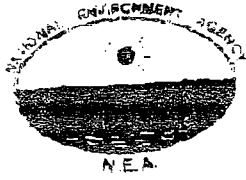
Methyl parathion: supporting documentation from the Gambia

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, the comment supplied by the Gambia in support of its final regulatory action on methyl parathion.

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

Annex



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
5 Fitzgerald Street, PB 48, BANJUL, The Gambia
Tel: (220) 228086 - Fax: (220) 229701
E-mail: nea@gamtel.gm



Ref: NEA/TSN 11/03/III(36)

13/12/04

The Joint Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention
Rome/Geneva

Fax: 00 3906 5705 6347
00 4122 797 3460

PLANT PRODUCTION	
Re: DEC 14 2004	
Reference No:	0006
TAGUAD	

Re: PIC Procedure-2 Verified Notifications from each of 2 Regions for PIC Notifications

Please refer to your letter ref: PL 36/11 dated the 24th November on the above captioned.

On the 23rd May 2003, The Gambia prepared and submitted background documentation to the PIC Secretariat entitled "Request for The Gambia to Submit Notifications for Regulatory Actions". We would kindly ask that you refer to this document.

In the third paragraph of the said documentation it is stated and I quote "The actions taken by the Board and based on the precautionary principle were transmitted to the PIC Secretariat, but not in the form of Notifications of Final Regulatory Actions".

In the same paragraph the following reasons were evoked as justifications for taking regulatory action:

1. The industrial chemical or pesticide already designated as a PIC chemical. (Part IV of the national pesticide regulations of 1994 empowers the Board not to register any pesticide that is banned or severely restricted by other countries unless the importer provides sufficient proof that the product can be more safely handled in The Gambia.)
2. The Product not being used in The Gambia
3. The toxicity nature of the product (based on information obtained from literature, Decision Guidance Documents (DGDs) and WHO Classification of hazards).
4. Dangers and hazards recorded in other countries
5. Lack of adequate capacity to manage and use the product, in the country
6. Existence of less hazardous alternatives.

Despite this argument, the Interim Rotterdam Secretariat in a letter dated 29th July 2003 requested that The Gambia comply with the requirements of Article 5 of the Convention.

Undercover of a letter referenced Ref: NEA/TSN 11/03/III(2) and dated the 7th of January 2004, Notification Forms for final regulatory action on twenty two chemicals/pesticides, including

Methyl Parathion, were sent to the Rotterdam Secretariat. The distinction was not made between chemicals and pesticide formulations. All the twenty two chemicals or formulations were those subject to the PIC Procedure.

In your letter dated the 24th November 2004, The Secretariat requested The Gambia to provide the supporting documentation referenced in sections 1.8, 2.3, and 2.4 of the completed notification form. The Secretariat may wish to note that:

1. The formulation is not used in the country and was not used at the time the notifications were prepared
2. There is no available documentation
3. **The notification should have been on hazardous pesticide formulation and not on a chemical**
4. The notification was based on the precautionary principle and the reasons evoked above
5. Information contained in section 1.8 and elsewhere was extracted from literature and DGDs.

In view of the above developments, we would be grateful if the Secretariat could reconsider its request for submission of information and documentation by The Gambia.

Yours sincerely,



Fatoumata Jallow Ndoye
For: Executive Director.

CC: Mr. Walter David Bowen
FAO Representative in The Gambia
Banjul.

Fax: 4228634