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

Second meeting

Geneva, 13–17 February 2006

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Listing of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention:
Consideration of the draft decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos**

Chrysotile asbestos

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the process for the development of decision guidance documents agreed by the Chemical Review Committee at its first meeting, and later set forth in decision RC 2/2, the internal proposal for chrysotile asbestos was circulated to the Chemical Review Committee and its observers for information and comment. Annexed to the present note is a tabular summary of the comments received on the internal proposal and how they were addressed in preparing the draft decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos.

2. The draft decision guidance document for chrysotile asbestos is available to the Committee in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/19.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/1.

Annex

Area of the document	Author	Comment	How dealt with
	Thailand	Many chemicals have harmful effects. The criteria for selecting and prioritizing chemicals for inclusion should be stated.	The introduction to the DGD states the basis for inclusion being a ban or severe restriction by two or more Parties.
	Thailand	Information is based on health and environment concerns without interest in trade, while the alternatives are of lower quality and more expensive.	Inclusion in the RC does not prevent trade, as countries can still continue to import the substance. The DGD provides information on the health and environmental effects of the substance to allow an informed decision.
Risk assessment			
	Thailand	The DGD presents risk assessment without any information on hazard, and no information on how to expose safely.	Annex I presents the hazard information in some detail. Exposures are also summarized. Reduction of exposure is referenced from Australia, EC and general controls, which included wetting to reduce dust, and a reference to ILO.
	Thailand	The difference in use and risk between dry climates and humid conditions is not referenced in the DGD.	The DGD is based primarily on the information contained in the notifications from Australia, Chile and the EC. If this issue was not drawn out in these assessments, it is not included. Additional information of this type could be published on the RC website.
Epidemiology			
	Thailand	Disease monitoring was based on old information when asbestos still contained amphibole, whereas now the asbestos contains serpentine forms only.	The epidemiological studies cited were those available, and which were used by the countries and WHO to take their decisions.
Application			
	Thailand	The information on hazard resulted in bans or severe restrictions. Good health care can prevent the formation of free radicals in the body, and cancer patients can survive for a long time.	The treatment of cancer patients is not covered in the DGD. The notifications were taken to decrease the incidence of diseases (including cancer) in the population of the notifying countries.
1. Identification and uses – uses in regulated category	Canada	In the reference to the Australian regulation is stated: 'Chrysotile is also used in blades in high vacuum pumps, asbestos yarn for packing, asbestos gloves and asbestos washers'. The Canadian request is to change the end of this sentence to read 'vacuum pumps, yarn for packing, gloves and washers.'	This is taken directly from the Australian notification as cited in the NICNAS Chrysotile PEC report.

Area of the document	Author	Comment	How dealt with
Section 2.2, Chile notification	Canada	Reference is made to the 'asbestos cement industry' in the second line – request this to be changed to the 'chrysotile cement industry'. Also in the third line reference is made to 'workers who handle asbestos fibres' – request this to be changed to chrysotile fibres.	"asbestos cement industry" and "workers who handle asbestos fibres" are direct quotes from the Notification of Final Regulatory Action. Therefore, no change.
3.3 Alternatives Chile notification	Canada	Similar comments relating to the replacement of asbestos with chrysotile.	This is a direct quote from the Notification of Final Regulatory Action. Therefore, no change.
3.4 Socio-economic effects – European Community	Canada	Line two refers to 'asbestos cement products' – replacement of this with chrysotile cement products is requested.	This is a direct quote from the Notification of Final Regulatory Action. Therefore, no change. For same reason and to ensure consistency words 'to chrysotile' after 'alternatives in line three deleted.
4.5 Waste management	Canada	Refers to 'All forms of asbestos may be recovered from waste slurries'. Request that this be amended to 'Chrysotile asbestos may be recovered from waste slurries' as the document is designed to refer to chrysotile specifically, not to all forms of asbestos.	Changed as suggested to: "Chrysotile asbestos may be recovered from waste slurries".
Introduction to Annex I	Canada	The fifth line refers to regulatory actions banning asbestos – request that this be amended to 'regulatory actions banning chrysotile asbestos'.	Changed as suggested to: "regulatory actions banning chrysotile asbestos".
Annex 1, 2.4 para. 1, line 1	Canada	Refers to 'known human health effects of asbestos' – request that this be changed to 'of chrysotile asbestos' to maintain the specificity of the document.	Changed as suggested to: "known human health effects of chrysotile asbestos".
Annex 1, 2.5.2 paras 1 and 2	Canada	Make general references to asbestos – would prefer to see specific chrysotile information.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex 1 2.5.3 mesothelioma	Canada	Para. 1 contains a number of references to 'asbestos' It is preferred that these be specific references to 'chrysotile asbestos'.	This information is drawn directly from the IARC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I 2.6	Canada	There are a number of references to 'asbestos' in this paragraph. It is requested that these be changed to read 'chrysotile asbestos'.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I, 3.1	Canada	It is requested that references to asbestos be changed to chrysotile asbestos.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I, 3.3	Canada	It is requested that the reference to 'asbestos cement pipe' be changed to 'chrysotile cement pipe'. Also, the reference to an association 'between asbestos in public water supplies' should be changed to 'chrysotile in public water supplies'.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I 3.4	Canada	Para. 2 contains a reference to asbestos cement – request this be changed to chrysotile cement. Para. 3 refers to asbestos-containing products – request that this be amended to chrysotile-containing products.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document. Citation of IPCS (1998) added.

Area of the document	Author	Comment	How dealt with
Annex I 3.4	Canada	Both the European and Chilean description of the notification refer to asbestos rather than chrysotile. While it is recognized that these notifications were made on all forms of asbestos, for the purpose of the DGD on chrysotile it is requested that the references be limited to chrysotile asbestos.	This information is drawn directly from the Chilean and EC Notifications of Final Regulatory Action. Therefore, no change.
Annex I 3.5	Canada	Para. 1 refers to asbestos cement products – request this be changed to chrysotile cement products.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
	Canada	Chile notification refers to the release of fibres from asbestos in a cement matrix – request that this be changed to chrysotile in a cement matrix.	This information is drawn directly from the notification, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I, 3.6	Canada	Para. 1 refers to friable asbestos-containing materials – request that this be changed to friable chrysotile asbestos-containing materials Para. 2 also refers to asbestos-containing materials – similar change requested. Para. 4 refers to assessing the risk to the public from asbestos exposure – similar change requested.	This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document. Changed as suggested. This information is drawn directly from the EHC document, and is cited as in the original document.
Annex I, 3.6	Canada	Para. 7 – refers to ‘low asbestos levels’ – request that this be changed to ‘low chrysotile asbestos levels’.	This information is drawn directly from the NICNAS document, and is cited as in the original document.