



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

New Chemicals Under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: Final Policy Decisions

Portfolio Environment

On 1 July 2020, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that:
 - 1.1 in 2019, the Parties to the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (the Stockholm Convention) agreed to list dicofol without specific exemptions, and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds with specific exemptions, in Annex A (Elimination) of the Convention;
 - 1.2 these changes will enter into force on 3 December 2020 for all Parties to the Convention who have not opted out;
- 2 **noted** that New Zealand will become bound by the amendments to the Stockholm Convention on 3 December 2020, unless New Zealand opts out before this date;
- 3 **noted** that implementing the amendments to the Stockholm Convention reflect New Zealand's interests, and that accordingly New Zealand will not opt out;
- 4 **noted** that as the amendments will enter into force through a process of tacit acceptance, the amendments are not subject to the Parliamentary Treaty Examination process and will not be presented to Parliament;
- 5 **noted** that although not required to comply with international obligations, minor changes to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (Exemptions and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011 are beneficial to ensure regulatory clarity and consistency for stakeholders;
- 6 **agreed** to amend Schedule 2A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 and Schedule 1 of the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibitions Order (No2) 2004 by adding:
 - 6.1 dicofol, without specific exemptions;
 - 6.2 perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, with specific exemptions;
- 7 **agreed** to amend Schedule 1AA of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 by updating the text of the Stockholm Convention;

- 8 **agreed** to amend Schedule 1 of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (Exemptions and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011 by adding dicofol;
- 9 **agreed** that New Zealand will register the following specific exemptions for use with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in accordance with the provisions of Part X of Annex A of the Stockholm Convention:
- 9.1 photographic coatings applied to films;
- 9.2 fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems;
- 10 **agreed** that New Zealand will make an ‘articles in use’ notification for any products containing PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds already in use in New Zealand at the time of the listing coming into force, to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention;
- 11 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above paragraphs.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O’Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV