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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 7136 **16 February 2026**

forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INFORMING THE INDUSTRY, INTERESTED, AND AFFECTED PARTIES ABOUT THE SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION ON THREE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS, NAMELY, LONG-CHAIN PERFLUOROCARBOXYLIC ACIDS (LC-PFCAs); MEDIUM-CHAIN CHLORINATED PARAFFINS (MCCPs) AND UV-328 UNDER ANNEX A OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION.

1. INTRODUCTION

The twelfth Stockholm Convention's (SC12) Conference of the Parties (COP) agreed to list new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), namely: chlorpyrifos (a pesticide banned in South Africa), and the following industrial chemicals, i.e., long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs); and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention for elimination with specific exemptions for certain applications. Furthermore, the COP12 agreed to add new exemption on UV-328 for use in water sealant tape and adhesives for the aircraft industry. Any other uses of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs), medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs), and UV-328 are banned under the Stockholm Convention except for those applications specified under specific exemptions. Only parties that have applied for specific exemptions shall be allowed to use these chemicals for those specific exempted applications prescribed by the Stockholm Convention's Conference of the Parties. Exemptions are reviewed by the COP from time to time, and the period for which they are allowed may be changed should there be safer alternatives available.

Any company which may be involved in the use, sale, production, import and export of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs); medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) and UV-328 under specified exempted applications prescribed below and wishing to use these chemicals, is hereby advised, if needed, to apply for specific exemptions listed below, through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment within the 30 days of publication of this Notice in the Gazette.

Written submissions of the requested information must be forwarded to any of the following address:

By post to: The Director-General

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Attention: Ms Noluzuko Gwayi

Senior Policy Advisor: International Chemicals and Waste Cooperation

Private Bag X447

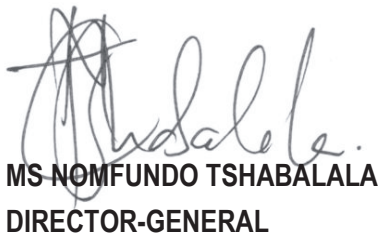
Pretoria

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By hand at: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, 0083.

By email: gkhauoe@dffe.gov.za

Any inquiries in connection with the Notice can be directed to Ms Noluzuko Gwayi, Senior Policy Advisor: International Chemicals and Waste Cooperation at ngwayi@dffe.gov.za or (012) 399 9854, and Mr Gordon Khauoe: Policy Analyst: International Chemicals and Waste Cooperation at gkhauoe@dffe.gov.za



MS NOMFUNDO TSHABALALA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

2. BACKGROUND

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty; its primary objective is to protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are very dangerous chemicals. They are very toxic, bioaccumulate in fatty tissue of animals including humans, persist in the environment, and travel very long distances to remote areas where they have never been used. The Stockholm Convention (SC) was adopted in May 2001, entered into force in May 2004 and it calls for international concerted action on three categories of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): Annexe A (for elimination), B (for restriction), and/ or C (reducing unintentional production). The SC requires parties not to produce new POPs, promote best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), and switch to safer alternatives to replace existing POPs.

The Stockholm Convention (SC) has recently held its twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (SC COP-12) in Geneva, Switzerland from 28 April to 09 May 2025. The SC COP-12 amended Annex A to list three new POPs, including chlorpyrifos (pesticide banned in South Africa), long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs), used for their ability to repel water, oil, dirt, and grease; and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs), used to make plastics flexible and durable, among other applications. The COP agreed to reopen the UV-328 listing to allow for a new specific exemption use in water sealant tape and adhesives for the aircraft industry. Parties to the Stockholm Convention may register for specific exemptions listed in Annex A or B pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention. These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire on dates agreed to by parties after the date of entry into force of the listing under the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party, or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment hereby requests the following information:

- Whether products, articles and chemicals in pure form containing long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs); medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) and UV-328 are being used by your company, and if so, what are the products and applications used for?
- Whether products, articles and chemicals in pure form containing long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs); medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) and UV-328 are being manufactured, imported, exported, used, and sold locally by your company?
- What is the name of the manufacturer, and the country of import and export of the products?
- Which applications is your company applying for regarding the specific exemptions?
- What are the reasons for not using safer alternatives? Provide evidence in this regard.
- Supporting information and the reasons for applying for specific exemptions should be provided within the 30-day period after the publication of this gazette.

Upon receiving your submissions, The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment will review and apply for the registration for specific exemptions, if any, with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on behalf of South Africa.

3. Listing of Medium-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (MCCPs) in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention with specific exemptions:

3.1 The COP decided to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list medium-chain chlorinated paraffins with specific exemptions.

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs)	Production	As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register in accordance with the provisions of Part XIII of this Annex

For the purposes of this Convention, substances or mixtures are considered as "Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs)" when they meet the definition in (i), (ii), or both (i) and (ii):
(i) Substances or mixtures that contain linear chloroalkanes with carbon chain lengths in the range $C_{14–17}$ and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight;
(ii) Substances or mixtures that contain linear $C_{14–17}$ chloroalkanes of the following molecular formulae:
$C_{14}H_{(30-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 5;
$C_{15}H_{(32-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 5;
$C_{16}H_{(34-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 6;
$C_{17}H_{(36-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 6.
	Use	In accordance with Part XIII of this Annex:
		• Flexible polyvinyl chloride (PVC), limited to the following uses:
		  ○ Construction sector, including maintenance of buildings and other structures, for uses other than flooring in indoor spaces that are not used for commercial purposes
		  ○ Wires and cables in the construction sector
		  ○ Wires and cables in medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic devices
		  ○ Calendered films in the packaging field, excluding food packaging
		• Solid woven conveyor belts used in underground coal mines
		• Flexible elastomeric foam for thermal insulation
		• Adhesives and sealants, limited to the following uses:
		  ○ Polysulfide sealant and one-component polyurethane foam used in sealing for doors and windows
		  ○ Waterproof coatings and anticorrosion coatings
		  ○ Aerospace and defence applications (e.g. polyurethane adhesives and tamper-proof putty)
		• Tape used for non-structural bonding in aerospace and defence products
		• Fatliquoring component in leather, except in children's products
		• Emergency response pyrotechnic devices
		• Paints and coatings for ammunition and ammunition markings
		• Metalworking fluids, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Part XIII of this Annex

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
		• Polymers and rubbers (including PVC, ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) rubber, chloroprene (CR), nitrile butadiene rubber (NBR) and chlorinated polyethylene (CPE)) used in repair and replacement parts, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of Part XIII of this Annex • Ammunition pyrotechnic defence devices to achieve specific effects (e.g. sound, smoke, light), in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 8 and 12 of Part XIII of this Annex • Intumescent coating and paint for space and defence equipment and its packaging to protect against extreme temperature, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 12 of Part XIII of this Annex • Coating and paint for the repair of, and use in replacement parts for, space and defence equipment, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 11 of Part XIII of this Annex

The COP also decided to insert a new part XIII in Annex A as follows:

Part XIII

3.2 Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins

3.2.1 The production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins shall be eliminated except for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use them in accordance with Article 4.

3.2.2 Note (i) of Annex A does not apply when the summed concentration of the following $C_{14–17}$ chloroalkanes ($C_{14}H_{(30-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 5$; $C_{15}H_{(32-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 5$; $C_{16}H_{(34-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 6$; $C_{17}H_{(36-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 6$) in substances or mixtures occurs at a concentration greater than 3 per cent by weight, subject to review by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth ordinary meeting and every second ordinary meeting thereafter, with the aim to reduce this limit over time.

3.2.3 Each Party is encouraged to require that manufacturers of chlorinated paraffins within their jurisdiction disclose information, including to others in the supply chain, on the summed concentration of the following linear $C_{14–17}$ chloroalkanes in those chlorinated paraffins:

(a) $\Sigma C_{14}H_{(30-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 5$;

(b) $\Sigma C_{15}H_{(32-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 5$;

(c) $\Sigma C_{16}H_{(34-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 6$;

(d) $\Sigma C_{17}H_{(36-y)}Cl_y$ where $y \geq 6$.

Alternatively, manufacturers of chlorinated paraffins can provide information, including to others in the supply chain, on the concentration of linear $C_{14–17}$ alkanes present in the feedstock used to produce the corresponding chlorinated paraffins.

3.2.4 For mixtures containing more than one chlorinated paraffin product, or containing chlorinated paraffin products and other substances, Parties are encouraged to require that the information on the concentrations specified in paragraph 3 above be provided for all chlorinated paraffin products present in the mixture.

3.2.5 Specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for metalworking fluids shall apply where they are used in professional or industrial settings with collection systems, and may be available until 2036, limited to use as extreme temperature and pressure additives for metalworking fluids used in "heavy-duty" processes (including deep drawing, broaching and fine blanking, drawing with ironing, precision metalworking (cutting/punching/drilling), tapping, cold drawing, cold rolling (pilgering), stamping, forging and grinding) for the production and repair of metals and metal alloy components (including steel, titanium, nickel, aluminium, copper, magnesium and beryllium) such as those used in the following applications and sectors:

a) Aerospace;
b) Defence;
c) Motor vehicles covering all land-based vehicles, such as cars, motorcycles, agriculture and construction vehicles, and industrial trucks;
d) Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) used in medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics devices, and instruments for measurement, analysis, manufacturing, control, monitoring, testing and inspection;
e) Machinery and tools used in agriculture, building/construction, forestry and landscaping;
f) Energy and power generation;
g) Oil and gas extraction;
h) Chemical production and refining;
i) Nuclear power facilities;
j) Low-carbon and renewable energy technologies;
k) Non-EEE medical devices.

3.2.6 Each Party that has registered for a specific exemption pursuant to Article 4 for the use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for metalworking fluids in professional or industrial settings with collection systems shall take measures to ensure protection of workers from risks associated with these uses.

3.2.7 Specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for polymers and rubbers (including PVC, ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) rubber, chloroprene (CR), nitrile butadiene rubber (NBR) and chlorinated polyethylene (CPE)), used in replacement parts for, and repair of, articles shall apply where the substances were originally used in the manufacture of those articles, and may be available, limited to use in the following applications, until the end of service life of the articles or 2041, whichever comes earlier:

a) Parts for land-based motor vehicles and machinery used in agriculture, construction, forestry, and landscaping (including powertrain and under-hood applications such as powertrains, wiring and under-hood harnesses (engine wiring, etc.); hoses, caps, tubes, filters; fuel system applications such as fuel hoses, fuel tanks, caps and underbodies; suspension and interior applications such as trim components, acoustic material and seat belts; exterior vehicle applications such as foam pads, sealers, gaskets, fasteners and windows; pyrotechnical devices and applications affected by pyrotechnical devices such as airbag ignition cables, seat covers/fabrics (only if airbag-relevant) and airbags);
b) EEE used for medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics devices, and instruments for measurement, analysis, manufacturing, control, monitoring, testing and inspection;
c) Aerospace and defence applications.

3.2.8 Specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for ammunition pyrotechnic defence devices to achieve specific effects (e.g. sound, smoke, light) may be available until 2041.

3.2.9 Specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for intumescent coating and paint for space and defence equipment and its packaging to protect against extreme temperature may be available until 2041.

3.2.10 Specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins in coating and paint for the repair of, and use in replacement parts for, space and defence equipment shall apply where medium-chain chlorinated paraffins were originally used in the manufacture of that equipment and may remain available until the end of service life of that equipment for its repair and maintenance, subject to review by the Conference of the Parties no later than 2041.

3.2.11 Each Party that has registered for a specific exemption pursuant to Article 4 for the use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins in coating and paint for the repair of, and use in replacement parts for, space and defence equipment shall take measures to ensure the protection of workers from risks associated with this use.

3.2.12 With regard to the specific exemptions for the production and use of medium-chain chlorinated paraffins for the applications referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9, at its fifteenth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter, the Conference of the Parties shall review the continued need for these specific exemptions.

4 Listing of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention with specific exemptions:

4.1 The COP decided to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds with specific exemptions.

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds "Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds" means the following: (i) Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids or their salts, for the purposes of the Convention, are a homologous series of substances with the molecular formula of $C_nF_{2n+1}COOH$ (where $8 \leq n \leq 20$); (ii) Compounds related to long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, for the purposes of the Convention, are any substance that is a precursor and may transform to long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, where the perfluorinated alkyl moiety has the formula C_nF_{2n+1} (where $8 \leq n \leq 20$) and is directly bonded to any chemical moiety other than a fluorine, chlorine or bromine atom. The following compounds are not included as long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds:	Production Use	As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register in accordance with the provisions of Part XIV of this Annex In accordance with Part XIV of this Annex: • Semiconductors designed for replacement parts not covered in paragraphs 2 (a) and (b) of Part XIV of this Annex • Semiconductors designed for replacement parts for combustion-engine-powered vessels in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Part XIV of this Annex • Replacement parts for motor vehicles that have ceased mass production in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Part XIV of this Annex

perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds as listed in Annex A to the Convention.

The COP also decided to insert a new part XIV in Annex A as follows:

Part XIV

4.2 Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds

4.2.1 The production and use of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds shall be eliminated except for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use them in accordance with Article 4.

4.2.2 Specific exemptions for the production and use of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds, limited to the following applications, may be available until the end of the service life of articles being repaired or until 2041, whichever comes earlier:

a) Semiconductors designed for replacement parts for combustion engine powered vessels;

b) Replacement parts for motor vehicles that have ceased mass production, covering all land-based vehicles, such as cars, motorcycles, agricultural and construction vehicles, and industrial trucks. Applications include semiconductors, coatings, cables, electronics, engines and under-hood applications, modules, hydraulic system components and relay assemblies

5 Amendment to Annex A to add new specific exemption on UV-328

5.1 The Conference of the Parties decided to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to add a new specific exemption for UV-328 in the row relating to use, as follows:

“Water-seal tape for insulation blankets and decking on aircraft; and polyurethane and polyamide adhesives, and polyurethane coatings, for structural, mechanical, interior and electrical assemblies, and emergency, propulsion, environmental control, and flight control systems, on aircraft.”

5.2 The Conference of the Parties also decided to amend part XII of Annex A to the Convention by inserting a new paragraph as follows:

“Regarding the specific exemption for ‘water-seal tape for insulation blankets and decking on aircraft; and polyurethane and polyamide adhesives, and polyurethane coatings, for structural, mechanical, interior and electrical assemblies, and emergency, propulsion, environmental control, and flight control systems, on aircraft’, it is limited to use only. This specific exemption shall in any case expire by the end of 2030.”

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