



30 August 2023

(23-5815)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. Notifying Member: AUSTRALIA If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Australian WTO TBT Enquiry Point Office of Global Trade Negotiations Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Canberra ACT 0221 tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au +61 2 6261 1111
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): The following chemicals, and products (finished goods) containing the following chemicals, when used for an industrial purpose (excluding agricultural, veterinary or therapeutic purposes): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and related substances• Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related substances• Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and related substances• Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB).
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Proposed chemical management standards for four persistent organic pollutants; (20 page(s), in English)
6. Description of content: The Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) has been developed by all Australian governments to efficiently and effectively manage the risks of industrial chemicals to the environment, while providing consistent requirements for businesses across Australia. The IChEMS Register records standards for the environmental management of chemicals, including risk management measures for specific industrial uses. In turn, the Australian federal government and each state and territory government will enact legislation to implement the standards in their jurisdictions.

The proposed decisions will assign the following chemicals, and products containing the chemicals, to Schedule 7 of the Register. This will prohibit their import, manufacture, use and export in Australia, with limited exceptions for unintentional trace contamination, research, disposal, and for articles (products) in use prior to the date of effect of the decision.

- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), including any of its branched isomers, its salts and any related compound that contains a linear or branched perfluoroheptyl (C₇H₁₅C) group and which can degrade to linear or branched PFOA;
- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), including any of its branched isomers, its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, and any substance containing a linear or branched perfluorooctane sulfonyl moiety and capable of degrading to PFOS (linear or branched);
- Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), including its linear and branched isomers, their salts and any substance containing a linear or branched perfluorohexylsulfonyl moiety that can degrade to PFHxS;
- Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB).

7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: The proposed scheduling decisions aim to:

- Enact standards for Stockholm Convention listed persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that have industrial uses and which Australia has not yet ratified.
- Facilitate ratification of the Stockholm Convention listings of the chemicals, allowing Australia to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.
- Achieve better protection of the environment through improved management of the environmental risks posed by industrial chemicals.
- Provide a nationally consistent, transparent, predictable and streamlined approach to environmental risk management of industrial chemicals for governments, industry and the community.

8. Relevant documents:

- [Decision for consultation – PFOA \[DOCX 2.69MB\] \[PDF 781KB\]](#)
- [Decision for consultation – PFOS \[DOCX 2.68MB\] \[PDF 778KB\]](#)
- [Decision for consultation – PFHxS \[DOCX 2.67MB\] \[PDF 782KB\]](#)
- [Decision for consultation – PeCB \[DOCX 2.67MB\] \[PDF 846KB\]](#)

Further supporting documents are available at: [Consultation hub | Public comments on IChEMS proposed decisions - Climate Change \(dceew.gov.au\)](#)

9. Proposed date of adoption: 31 December 2023

Proposed date of entry into force: 1 July 2024 (PeCB) or 1 July 2025 (PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS).

10. Final date for comments: 60 days from notification

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:

<https://consult.dceew.gov.au/ichems-s17-proposed-decisions>

Further information on IChEMS is available at: <https://www.dceew.gov.au/environment/protection/chemicals-management/national-standard>