



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

BRS Treaties • Rotterdam Convention

Key provisions of the Rotterdam Convention

Objective (Article 1)

- To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm; and
- To contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

Scope of the Convention (Article 3)

- Banned or severely restricted chemicals; and
- Severely hazardous pesticide formulations.

Designated National Authorities (DNA, Article 4)

- Each Party to designate one or more national authorities authorized to act in the performance of the administrative functions required by this Convention.
- Parties to ensure that DNA(s) have sufficient resources to perform their tasks effectively.

Procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals (Article 5)

- Each Party, at the date of entry into force of the Convention (for it) to notify the Secretariat of its final regulatory actions in effect at that time.

Procedures for severely hazardous pesticide formulations (Article 6)

- Any Party that is a developing country or a country with an economy in transition and that is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under conditions of use in its territory, may propose to the Secretariat the listing of the severely hazardous pesticide formulation in Annex III (Chemicals Subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure).
- The Chemical Review Committee shall review the information provided in the proposal and the additional information collected and recommend whether the severely hazardous pesticide should be made subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure.

Listing of Chemicals (Articles 7, 8 and 9)

- For each chemical that the Chemical Review Committee has decided to recommend for listing in Annex III, it shall prepare a draft decision guidance document (Article 7).
- For chemicals not listed in Annex III, that has been included in a voluntary PIC, the COP will decide whether to list the chemical in Annex III (Article 8).
- A Party may submit information that an Annex III listing is no longer justified, which spurs a Chemical Review Committee review with recommendation for decision of the COP. Based on the information, the COP will decide whether to remove the chemical from Annex III (Article 9).

Procedural provisions

- **Technical assistance (Article 16):** puts the onus on Parties to work together to manage implementation
- **Non-compliance (Article 17):** requires the development of procedures for determining non-compliance
- **Conference of the Parties (COP, Article 18):** requires establishing the Chemical Review Committee at first meeting
- **Secretariat (Article 19):** secretarial duties performed jointly by UNEP and FAO

This factsheet on **The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties): Rotterdam Convention** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 26–29.