

**EPA's Engagement in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions**  
*Fact Sheet Prepared for the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee*

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty that aims to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that are of particular concern because they are known to be toxic, bioaccumulative, persistent, and capable of long-range environmental transport. If the science-based procedure established under the Convention finds that a chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted, that chemical may be listed in the Convention by the Parties. Once a chemical is listed, the Convention prohibits its production, use, import, and export, subject to certain exemptions.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade establishes an information-sharing process that facilitates informed decision-making on whether to import a chemical that has been listed in accordance with the Convention's criteria. As a general matter, once an importing Party establishes its conditions for import of a listed chemical, exporting Parties are obligated to comply with those conditions.

The United States is a signatory to both conventions but has not ratified them. However, the United States actively participates in meetings of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions as a government observer. EPA attends the Conferences of the Parties of both conventions as a member of the U.S. delegation. EPA also leads U.S. participation in the technical committees of the conventions, and routinely shares its scientific information and policy views during committee meetings.

All of the pesticides currently listed under the Stockholm and/or Rotterdam conventions are regulated by EPA under FIFRA, and in many cases, such as in the following examples, these substances are no longer registered for pesticidal use in the United States.

DDT is an insecticide that was identified as one of the initial twelve POPs under the Stockholm Convention and is also listed under the Rotterdam Convention. In the United States, DDT was registered for use in 1940 and was extensively used on agricultural crops from 1945 to 1972. In 1972, EPA issued a cancellation order of DDT based on its potential human health risks and its adverse effects to wildlife. In 1986, EPA revoked all tolerances of DDT on food crops. In 1989, the remaining exempted uses of DDT (public health use for controlling vector-borne diseases, military use for quarantine, and prescription drug use for controlling body lice) were voluntarily stopped. Today, there are no U.S. registrations for DDT, meaning that DDT cannot legally be sold or distributed in the United States. There is also no U.S. production, import, or export of DDT.

Lindane is another insecticide that is listed under both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions. Lindane was first registered in the United States in the 1940s and had been used on a wide variety of agricultural, residential, commercial, and other use sites. By 1998, EPA canceled a large number of lindane uses, including direct treatment of livestock, pet products,

ornamentals, home lawns, fallow areas, foliar treatment to food and vegetable crops, and seed treatment to a variety of crops. By 2002, all remaining uses of lindane were canceled except for seed treatment uses on barley, corn, oats, rye, sorghum, and wheat. In 2006, EPA canceled the remaining uses of lindane and in 2007, EPA revoked all remaining tolerances for lindane on food crops.

Methoxychlor, an organochlorine pesticide developed as a replacement for DDT, was listed under the Stockholm Convention by the Conference of the Parties in May 2003. Methoxychlor was first registered as a pesticide in the United States in 1948. There was limited toxicological information provided to EPA for reregistration of methoxychlor, which ultimately led to registration suspensions and voluntary cancellation. As of June 2000, all product registrations of methoxychlor were either suspended due to registrants' noncompliance with a data call-in notice or voluntarily cancelled by the registrants. In July 2002, EPA announced the revocation of all tolerances of methoxychlor and all registered technical sources of methoxychlor were cancelled in 2003.

### References

- [EPA Website: Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)
- [EPA Website: International Activities Related to Pesticides](#)
- [EPA Website: DDT – A Brief History and Status](#)
- [POPs Listed in the Stockholm Convention](#)
- [Rotterdam Convention Annex III Chemicals](#)