

CHEMICAL CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

TETRAETHYL LEAD AND TETRAMETHYL LEAD

Drafting group members:

Chair: L. Juergensen

Co-chair: M. Debois

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RATIONALE:

Rationale for the recommendation that tetramethyl lead (CAS No. 75-74-1) and tetraethyl lead (CAS No. 78-00-2) should become subject to the prior informed consent procedure and to establish an intersessional drafting group to prepare a draft decision guidance document (excerpted from UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.4/18, Annex IV).

In reviewing the notifications of final regulatory actions by the European Community and Canada, together with the supporting documentary information provided by those Parties, the Committee was able to confirm that those actions had been taken in order to protect human health. Both the European Community and Canadian actions were taken on the basis of the health effects of lead, which is considered highly toxic. Tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead are used as additives in gasoline as anti-knock agents. As a result of this use, lead is released in the exhaust fumes, leading to increases in the lead levels in the environment. Both countries recognised that this increase was a significant contributor of lead in the blood of humans.

The Committee established that the final regulatory actions had been taken on the basis of risk evaluations and that those evaluations had been based on a review of scientific data. The available documentation demonstrated that the data had been generated in accordance with scientifically recognised methods, and that the data reviews had been performed and documented in accordance with generally recognised scientific principles and procedures. It also showed that the final regulatory actions had been based on chemical-specific risk evaluations taking into account the conditions of exposure within the European Community and Canada.

The Committee concluded that the final regulatory actions provided a sufficiently broad basis to merit including tetramethyl lead and tetraethyl lead in the interim PIC procedure in the industrial category. It noted that those actions led to at least a 98% decrease in the quantities of the chemicals used in the notifying Parties. Several studies showed that this decrease was associated with a significant decrease in blood lead levels. Hence, the risk for human health in each notifying Party had been significantly reduced.

There was no indication that there were any pesticide uses of tetramethyl lead or tetraethyl lead. The Committee also took into account that the considerations underlying the final regulatory action were not of limited applicability since leaded gasoline continues to be used in other countries. Many countries have taken action to reduce the

use of leaded gasoline due to health concerns. On the basis of information provided by members at the ICRC4 meeting and other available information, the Committee concluded that there was ongoing international trade in tetramethyl lead and tetraethyl lead.

The Committee noted that the final regulatory actions were not based on concerns about intentional misuse of tetramethyl lead or tetraethyl lead.

The Committee concluded that the notifications of final regulatory actions by the European Community and Canada met the information requirements of Annex I and the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention. It is recommended that tetramethyl lead (CAS NO. 75-74-1) and tetraethyl lead (CAS No. 78-00-2) be included in the interim PIC procedure as industrial chemicals.

SCHEDULE FOR THE DRAFTING GROUP ON TETRAETHYL LEAD AND TETRAMETHYL LEAD

Tasks to be carried out, responsible persons, and deadlines:

<i>Task</i>	<i>Responsible persons</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Draft an “internal proposal” on tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead based on the information available to ICRC-4.	L. Juergensen M. Debois	15 May 2003
Send draft “internal proposal” to drafting group members for comments via e-mail.	L. Juergensen M. Debois	15 May 2003
Send comments on draft “internal proposal” to Chairs with cc to Secretariat.	All DG members	15 June 2003
Revise “internal proposal” based on comments from group members	L. Juergensen M. Debois	15 July 2003
Send revised “internal proposal” to the ICRC and its observers for comments via e-mail	Secretariat	15 July 2003
Send comments on draft “internal proposal” to Chairs with cc to Secretariat.	All ICRC members and observers	1 September 2003
Draft a decision guidance document (DGD) based on the comments from the ICRC and its observers/Compile tabular summary of the comments received and how they were addressed.	L. Juergensen M. Debois	1 October 2003
Send draft DGD and tabular summary of comments to group members for comments via e-mail	L. Juergensen M. Debois	1 October 2003
Send comments on draft DGD and tabular summary of comments to Chairs with cc to Secretariat.	All DG members	1 November 2003
Finalize draft DGD based on the comments of the group/Finalise tabular summary of comments and how they were addressed.	L. Juergensen M. Debois	15 November 2003
Send the draft DGD and tabular summary of comments to Secretariat	L. Juergensen M. Debois	15 November 2003
ICRC meeting		March 2004

List of documentation identified by the drafting group as the basis for drafting the internal proposal on tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead.

These documents were available to all members of the ICRC as meeting documents at ICRC.4 (indicated by document number). Some documents (marked with an asterisk) were not distributed to all attendees, but were available. Copies of these documents have been circulated to the drafting group. Drafting group members should have hard copies of all other documents. If you are missing any of these documents please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Document Number	Title of Document	Comment
	Working Paper on Preparing Internal Proposals and Decision Guidance Documents for Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals	A revision of UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC.4/6 based on further comments provided at ICRC.4 (Version dated March 2003).
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add1 and ICRC4/167add.1	Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, 2002	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add1 and ICRC4/167add.1	NTP Chemical Health and Safety Data, US Department of Health and Human Services 1991 (http://ntp-db.niehs.nih.gov)	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.3 and ICRC4/167add.3	<u>Canadian Regulations:</u>	
*UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.4.5 and ICRC4/167add.4.5	<u>The Elimination of Leaded Motor Gasoline: Effect on Canadian Gasoline Engines Beyond 1990, Report EPS 3/TS/1, Environment Canada, October 1989</u>	
*UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.4.7 and ICRC4/167add.4.7	<u>Lead in the Canadian Environment: Science and Regulation, Final Report, The Royal Society of Canada, 1986</u>	
*UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.4.8 and ICRC4/167add.4.8	<u>Health Effects of Lead, the Royal Society of Canada 1986</u>	
*UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.4.9 and ICRC4/167add.4.8	<u>Pathways, Cycling and Transformation of Lead in the Environment, The Royal Society of Canada, 1986</u>	
*UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.4.11 and ICRC4/167add.4.11	<u>Lead in Gasoline, Alternatives to Lead in Gasoline, Supplementary Report, The Royal Society of Canada, 1986</u>	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.2 and ICRC4/16/add.2	<u>OCDE/GD(93)67 Risk Reduction Monograph No 1: Lead – background and national experience with reducing risk, OECD, 1993 (www.oecd.org)</u>	Only the Executive Summary has been requested by the drafting group. This was available at ICRC 4
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.2 and ICRC4/16/add.2	<u>Notification of final regulatory action to ban tetraethyl lead and tetramethyl lead – studies in Germany</u>	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.2 and ICRC4/16/add.2	<u>International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) peer review 1995 (www.inchem.org)</u>	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/add.6.1 and	<u>Environmental Health Criteria No. 165: Inorganic Lead. IPCS/WHO 1995</u>	As this document is available on the internet, it has not been circulated

ICRC4/167add.6.1	www.inchem.org	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ ICRC4/15/add.6.3 and ICRC4/167add.6.3	<u>Substantial decrease of blood lead in Swedish children, 1978 – 94, associated with petrol lead, Occupational and Environmental Medicine 1995</u>	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/ Add.7 and ICRC4/16/Add.7	<u>Progress in Phasing Out Lead in Gasoline UNEP/GC.22/INF/23, February 2003</u>	
UNEP/FAO/PIC/ICRC4/15/ Add.7 and ICRC4/16/Add.7	<u>Partners for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles, Report of the Steering Committee Meeting 14 – 15, November 2002</u>	