

The Rotterdam Process for Listing Chemicals

This presentation covers the process the Rotterdam Convention uses to decide whether to list a hazardous chemical (or family of chemicals).

This PowerPoint Presentation is the 3rd in a series of 8 presentations on Lead Chromates and the Rotterdam Convention, prepared by IPEN in order to help NGOs, civil society, and government officials better understand the important role a lead chromate listing by the Rotterdam Convention can play in reducing childhood lead exposure and accelerating global lead paint elimination. For other presentations in this series, please visit IPEN's [website](#).



IPEN's Campaign to List Lead Chromates

IPEN is a network of over 600 NGOs in more than 120 countries working together for a toxics-free future.

- IPEN has been working with NGOs to promote lead paint elimination in low- and middle-income countries for fifteen years.
- Initiatives by governments and these NGOs has led to the adoption of new lead paint regulation in several countries.
- IPEN-affiliated NGOs in countries that recently adopted lead paint control laws are now encouraging their Governments to nominate lead chromates for a Rotterdam Convention listing.

IPEN's Campaign to List Lead Chromates

The Rotterdam Convention is an international treaty that operates a legally binding Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure that applies to international trade in the hazardous chemicals listed in its Annex III.

- The lead paint control regulations that many countries recently adopted impose severe restrictions on the use of lead chromate pigments as ingredients in paints.
- These pigments are the predominant source of lead in lead paints.
- Countries that recently adopted lead paint regulations can submit Notifications to the Rotterdam Convention that nominate lead chromates for a Convention listing.
- A decision by the Rotterdam Convention to list lead chromates can help greatly accelerate the global elimination of all lead paints.

IPEN's Campaign to List Lead Chromates

Those interested in submitting Notifications may wish to review two documents that better explain the listing process and its impact.

[*Controlling Lead Chromate Pigments: The Case for a Rotterdam Convention Listing*](#). What are Lead Chromates; The Lead Chromate Hazard; Uses of Lead Chromates; and the Impact of a Rotterdam Convention Listing.

[*Preparing a Rotterdam Convention Notification Listing*](#). Why Countries that Recently Adopted Lead Paint Controls Can Nominate Lead Chromates; the Rotterdam Listing Process; Most Recent Regulatory Actions were based on Risk Evaluations; Establishing Controls on Trade in both Lead Chromates and in Paints that Contain them; How to Satisfy the Convention's Listing Criteria.

The Rotterdam Convention's Process for Listing a Chemical

There are several steps in the Rotterdam Convention's process for deciding to list a hazardous chemical in its Annex III.

- The listing process begins when countries submit *Notifications of their Final Regulatory Actions to ban or severely restrict a hazardous chemical.*
- The Secretariat *Verifies* that the Notifications satisfy the Convention's *Information Requirements.*
- The Chemical Review Committee Determines whether the Notifications satisfy the Convention's *Listing Criteria.*
- The Convention's *Conference of the Parties* makes the final listing decision.

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Notification

Parties to the Convention are expected to *Notify* the Secretariat whenever they take a *Final Regulatory Action* to ban or severely restrict a hazardous chemical for health or environmental reasons.

The *Notifications* are submitted using the Convention's standard *Notification Form*. The submission must additionally include all necessary supporting documentation.

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Verification

The Convention's Secretariat reviews all the Notifications it receives to determine whether they satisfy the Convention's *Information Requirements*.

- The Information Requirements are specified in the Convention's Annex I.
- If the Convention receives Notifications of regulatory action to ban or severely restrict the same chemical from at least one country in each of at least two regions, and if the Secretariat Verifies that these Notifications satisfy the Information Requirements, it will forward the Notifications to the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) for its review.

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Inter-sessional CRC Activities

The Secretariat circulates the verified Notifications and their supporting documents to all CRC members in advance of the CRC's next meeting.

- CRC members are given the opportunity to provide comments, in writing.
- The Secretariat may establish inter-sessional *Task Groups* to review the comments and to prepare reports and recommendations for consideration by the CRC as a whole.

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The CRC Review

The Chemical Review Committee reviews the Notifications it receives. In doing so, it considers the written comments and recommendations from the Intersessional Task Groups.

- The purpose of the CRC's review is to determine whether the Notifications under review satisfy the four *Listing Criteria that are* specified in the Convention's Annex II.
- The CRC considers every element of each of the four Criteria.
- If it determines that at least one Notification from each of at least two regions fully satisfies all four Listing Criteria, it will recommend that the notified hazardous chemical be listed in the Convention's Annex III.

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The CRC's Recommendation

If the CRC decides that at least one Notification from each of at least two regions satisfies the Listing Criteria, and if it recommends that the notified hazardous chemical be listed:

- The CRC will prepare a **draft** *Decision Guidance Document* (DGD) that provides information about the health and environmental risks associated with the notified hazardous chemical.
- The Secretariat will place the question of whether to list the notified hazardous chemical on the agenda of the **next meeting** of the Convention's Conference of the Parties (COP) for its consideration and possible adoption.

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The COP Makes the Final Decision

At its next meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider and possibly decide to list the notified hazardous chemical.

- The COP may begin by establishing a *Contact Group* of interested Parties that will discuss the CRC's listing recommendation. The contact group may review and possibly revise the Draft DGD.
- The Contact Group will report on its discussions to the full COP. It may, additionally, present a *revised* DGD.
- The final listing decision is then made by the full Conference of the Parties.

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If the COP Decides to List

When the Conference of the Parties decides to list a hazardous chemical in the Convention's Annex III, it also adopts a *Decision Guidance Document*:

- The DGD provides detailed information about the health and environmental risks associated with the listed hazardous chemical.
- The DGD is transmitted to the Convention's 160 Party Governments.
- All Convention Parties are expected to submit their response to the listing decision within nine months of receiving the DGD.

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The Parties are required to respond to the listing decision.

A Party is required to respond to a listing decision within nine months in one of four ways. It can:

- Consent to all future imports of the listed chemical.
- Consent to no future imports of the listed chemical.
- Consent to future imports of the listed chemical only if some specified conditions are met.
- State that it needs more time to decide.

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For Additional information and other *Lead Chromates and the Rotterdam Convention* PowerPoint presentations, please visit IPEN's [website](https://ipen.org/site/listing-lead-chromates-under-rotterdam-convention). (<https://ipen.org/site/listing-lead-chromates-under-rotterdam-convention>)