

Definition Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCP) in the amended POP Protocol

At the last Executive Body meeting in December 2009 we agreed to amend our POP Protocol. One of the substances we added was SCCP. For SCCP we agreed to limit its use to two minor uses, as fire retardants in rubber for conveyer belts in the mining industry and as fire retardants in dam sealants. With that we banned the use of SCCP for its two main uses, as metal working fluid and for leather finishing. At least that was the intention. As it appears now we have agreed for SCCP a definition, which could open the further use of SCCP for leather finishing (Chlorinated paraffins used for leather finishing generally have a low chlorine content (20-40 % wt Cl)).

What to do about this situation? We could solve the problem by deleting the last part of the definition with the chlorine content. The ideal and most simple solution would be to amend the definition in the amended POP Protocol. We could prepare a Decision to that effect by the Parties to the POP Protocol in the WGSR in September and adopt it at the next EB session in December 2010.

At the WGSR46 we had a short discussion on the issue and a suggestion was put forward to see if we could use the Vienna Treaty of Treaties, which gives possibilities for adjusting mistakes. Legal advice says that the SCCP definition issue would not qualify as a clear mistake. The appropriate route to follow would be to amend the Protocol by adopting an EB Decision. A draft EB Decision is given below for the Parties to the POP Protocol to consider at the WGSR in September and adopt such a decision at the EB in December 2010.

Johan Sliggers, co-chair of the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 16 July 2010.

Draft Decision by the Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants meeting within the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body, Decision 2010/

Definition of Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins

The Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants meeting within the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body,

Noting with pleasure the adoption of the amendments to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its 27th meeting in December 2009,

Recalling the adoption of the definition for Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCP):

“Short-chain chlorinated paraffins means chlorinated alkanes with a carbon chain-length of 10 to 13 carbon atoms and the degree of chlorination of more than 48% by weight”,

Underlining the intention of the negotiations for SCCP to restrict the use of SCCP to two minor uses, as fire retardants in rubber for conveyer belts in the mining industry and as fire retardants in dam sealants,

Notes with concern that the adopted definition for SCCP might allow for the further use of SCCP for the use of leather finishing,

Determined to close down the two main uses, as metal working fluid and for leather finishing,

Decides to amend the definition of SCCP to read: “Short-chain chlorinated paraffins means chlorinated alkanes with a carbonchain-length of 10 to 13 carbon atoms”.