



POPs Action In China

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

Policies and Regulations

Regulation on PCBs Pollution Prevention and Control Promulgated in Zhejiang Province

The Regulation on PCBs Pollution Prevention and Control was promulgated in Zhejiang Province on January 7th, 2009. The regulation, the first provincial level special regulation on PCBs, includes comprehensive rules on the overall process of PCBs management, treatment and disposal.

In collaboration with the World Bank, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (FECO/MEP) initiated China PCBs Management and Disposal Demonstration Project early 2006. Zhejiang province is the pilot province to demonstrate PCBs investigation, cleanup, treatment and disposal. One of the goals of the project is to strengthen policies and regulations based on the experiences and achievements from this demonstration. With the guidance and support from

the World Bank and FECO/MEP, after over two years of investigation, research and circulation for comments, the Zhejiang Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB) formulated and promulgated that regulation.

The regulation emphasizes the obligations and liabilities of PCBs waste producers, clarifies the responsibilities of administrative departments at various levels, and makes comprehensive and detailed specifications and requirements for such key activities as PCBs waste collection, storage, transportation, transfer, treatment and disposal, and puts forward the emergency measures for PCBs pollution accidents and the cleanup standard for site decontamination sites.

Effective Control and Strengthened Treatment of Soil Pollution from POPs Required in the Reform and Development Plan of the Pearl River Delta Region

On January 8th, 2009, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) issued the Reform and Development Plan of the Pearl River Delta Region (2008-2020) at a press conference by the Information Office of the State Council. The nearly 30,000-word plan, which was approved by the State Council, covers all aspects of the economy and social development in the Pearl River Delta

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Region in the coming decade, and provides a clear roadmap for its future development. The plan is the action guideline for the region's current and future reform and development, and the basis for relevant special plans.

The plan includes the following 9 areas: building modern industrial system, improving the capability of independent innovation, promoting the modernization of infrastructure, balancing urban and rural development, promoting balanced development among regions, strengthening resource conservation and environmental protection, accelerating social development, creating new advantages of institutional mechanisms, and building a new pattern of opening up and cooperation. Effective control and strengthened management of soil pollution from POPs and heavy metals has been included for the first time into the plan as one important part of the efforts of enhancing resource conservation and environmental protection.

A Number of New POPs Included in Oeko-Tex Label

As demands for environmentally-friendly and ecological textile increase around the world, the updated version of the International Environmental Protection Textile label (Oeko-Tex Standard 100) was issued in January 2009, the revised parts mainly involve decabromodiphenyl oxide, Hexabromocyclododecane and perfluorooctane sulfonyl compounds (PFOS) and its salts (PFOA) as well as other chemicals. The main modifications are as follows:

1. More fire-retardant substances are added, including decabromodiphenyl oxide and Hexabromocyclododecane, which are to-be-listed chemicals that draw much attention in the Stockholm Convention.
2. Testing standards for Perfluorooctane sulfonyl compounds (PFOS) and its salts (PFOA) are included. Due

to the fact that the testing methods for PFOS and PFOA are still in the formulation stage in the EU, member institutions of the international Oeko-Tex Association will continue to use their existing self-developed methods on PFOS substances.

【What is Oeko-Tex Standard 100】

In April 1992, the International Oeko-Tex Association developed the "Oeko-Tex Standard 100" (the international Oeko-Tex label) to ensure worldwide unification of the test results with uniformed testing methods and testing standards. Oeko-Tex Standard 100 soon evolved into the global benchmark for textile industry's safety tests.

The standard prohibits and restricts the use of known existing harmful substances in textiles, and includes over 100 test items, such as pH value, formaldehyde, extractable heavy metals, nickel, pesticides / herbicides, chlorine-containing phenol, cleavable aromatic amine dye, sensitization dye, organic chloride dyeing accelerant, organic tin compounds (TBT / DBT), PVC plasticizers, color fastness, organic volatile gases, odor, etc. The test items and limits are developed and improved on the basis of member institutions' researches on textile ecology to ensure that its certified products can meet the most stringent requirements and statute for ecological textiles.

As human body is exposed to textiles at varying levels, the extent of harm may be different, Oeko-Tex Standard 100 divide textiles into four categories based on their uses: for infants, for direct contact with skin, for indirect contact with skin and for decoration use.



***Dioxin Monitoring Data
Emphasized at Final
Acceptance of Projects
under the “National
Hazardous Waste and
Medical Waste Disposal
Facility Construction Plan”***

On February 25, 2009, MEP issued a notice on strengthening final acceptance of projects under the “National Hazardous Waste and Medical Waste Disposal Facility Construction Plan”. (Hereinafter referred to as the Plan)

Meanwhile, in order to strengthen the management of construction projects of the hazardous waste and medical waste disposal facilities under “the

plan”, to standardize acceptance at the completion of construction projects, to comprehensively assess project progress and the use of funds, and to ensure the quality of the projects, MEP formulated an instruction on the acceptance of the projects under the plan based on “Measures on Acceptance of Construction Projects (engineering)” and “Regulation on Quality Management of Construction Projects” and other relevant regulations, combined with the actual facts of the projects. The instruction clearly defines relevant requirements and clarifications, and includes dioxin monitoring as one of the important contents for reference in the project acceptance.

***DDT and Other POPs
Included in Changchun’s
Pesticide Safety Action Plan***

In order to regulate the use of pesticides, improve the quality of agricultural products, and ensure the people’s health, the government of Changchun developed the “Changchun’s Pesticide Safety Action Plan” (Changchun-agricultural [2008] 188). According to the plan,

Changchun will investigate the pesticide market and guide the farmers to make rational use of pesticides within the period from January to August, 2009. Pesticides like DDT, toxaphene, aldrin and dieldrin have been included in the list for investigation.

The Changchun municipal government set up a special pesticide safety action leading group to carry out work in three stages: publicity campaign and training, market investigation and quality test for pesticide products.

DDT, toxaphene, aldrin and dieldrin are in the first group of controlled substances in the Stockholm Convention. China will fully phase out a total of 9 pesticides including the above four in 2009.



Stockholm Convention Progress

***The Asian Regional Stockholm
Convention Awareness-Raising
Seminar Held***

The Asian regional Stockholm Convention awareness-raising

seminar was held in Nepal from January 20th to 22nd, 2009. A total of 22 participants from 13 party countries of the Stockholm Convention (Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand)

and representatives from two non-governmental organizations of Nepal and the Philippines took part in the seminar. Dr. Han Wenya from China’s Stockholm Convention Implementation Office (CIO) attended the meeting and introduced China’s experiences in the

preparation of national implementation plan (NIP).

During the conference, introduction was given on the requirements and guidelines for national report and the development of the NIP, as well as on approaches for parties to acquire the technical and financial assistance. Topics that will be discussed at the upcoming Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4), including candidate POPs, were briefed. It is particularly mentioned that a ministerial level round table conference will be held during COP4, and a vote on candidate POPs is expected. The Convention Secretariat urged the parties to make early preparations.

Meeting with Dupont Group on Fluorocarbon Surfactant

Ms. Yang Xiaoling from FECO/MEP met with Mr. Thomas, person in charge of DuPont Group's global operations of fluorocarbon product development and marketing, on February 17th, 2009. The two sides exchanged views on the current management and future trends of PFOS (salt) and perfluorooctanoic acid around the world, as well as the research & development and application

of DuPont's alternative products.

According to Mr. Thomas, DuPont has developed a series of short-carbon-chain fluorocarbon surfactants. These alternatives exhibits low bioaccumulation and toxicity levels in the environmental risk assessment, and are being used as alternatives in textile and firefighting industries, though they can be persistent in the environment.

Ms. Yang Xiaoling recognized and encouraged DuPont Group's active efforts, and stressed that in order to avoid the secondary alternative, it is necessary to continuously assess these alternatives' toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation, which are the prerequisite for promoting alternatives, and the basis for China's phase-out activities .

Chongqing Strengthened Two Paralleled Efforts on Prevention and Treatment of POPs Contaminated Sites

To further enhance the prevention and treatment of POPs and other pollutants contaminated sites, so as to create a "Livable Chongqing", Chongqing Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB) recently launched a new initiative to combat land contamination

by following the principle of prevention and remediation of the contamination at the same time.

Firstly, pilot programs for industrial land contamination prevention and control warning systems will be launched. Special focus will be given to enterprises that are prone to generate unintentional POPs in large volumes in the process of industrial production, the evaluation system for baseline value of soil environmental quality and regular monitoring will be established in five pilot enterprises, so as to explore ways to prevent pollution from sources. Secondly, the environment liability insurance pilot programs will be carried out to attract more enterprises to participate in environment liability insurances, and encourage them to buy the pollution liability insurance for their production area, so as to reduce the burden of the environmental risks for the enterprises. Thirdly, in line with the "Careful investigation and classified remediation" principle, efforts will be made to actively promote the restoration of identified POPs contaminated sites, and complete the decontamination of the original site of Chongqing Tianyuan Chemical Industry Plant within this year.

Project Progress

Annual Meeting on China's Sustainable Environmental Management of Medical Waste Project Successfully Convened

The annual meeting on China's Medical

Waste Sustainable Environment Management Project ("medical waste project") organized by FECO/MEP was held on January 5th, 2009 in Beijing. Representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the hospital administration department of the

Ministry of Health, the project contractors including the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning of MEP, Shenyang Institute of Environmental Sciences and various experts attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the implementation progress of the "National Hazardous



Waste and Medical Waste Disposal Facility Construction Plan” was briefed, and the progress of medical waste projects in 2008 was reported. Evaluation was made on project coordination mechanisms, formulation/ revision of policies and standards, recruitment of technical experts, bidding and its evaluation of demonstration sites. The 2009 work-plan and major tasks were discussed and agreed.

UNIDO spoke highly of the progress of the medical waste project in 2008, and acknowledged China’s standardized project management and its elaborate efforts which contributed to a good start of the project, and hoped that FECO/MEP, project contractors and experts will carry on their efforts in the new year, and cooperate with each other to ensure the smooth implementation of the project as planned. The project is China’s first dioxin emission reduction project under the Stockholm Convention supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The smooth start and implementation of the project will

be meaningful to dioxin emission reduction in other industries.

China’s Comprehensive Environmental Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Project PIF Formulated

FECO/MEP sponsored the seminar on the formulation of Project Identification Form (PIF) for China’s Comprehensive Environmental Management of MSW Project on February 1st-9th, 2009 in Beijing. Officials and experts from UNIDO, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and relevant scientific research institutions were invited to the meeting.

The MSW project was jointly developed by FECO/MEP and UNIDO. Following the guideline of building a harmonious

society and ecological civilization, the project is planned to introduce the concept of municipal waste life-cycle management in pilot cities, develop/revise associated regulations and standards on solid waste, and promote establishment of the market mechanism of garbage collection and resources re-use. Best available techniques / best environmental practices (BAT / BEP) will be practiced, emissions of POPs and other pollutants will be significantly reduced, so that comprehensive reduction, recycling and decontamination can be achieved, and China’s environment management capability of MSW be improved.

At present, the first draft of PIF has been completed, and is planned to be submitted to GEF after evaluation by experts in the next phase.



Technology Breakthroughs

Detection of Dioxin in Pork Products Successfully Resolved with Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.'s GC/MS Technology

The Irish pork dioxin pollution incident revealed the lack of accurate dioxin testing in food products. On January 8, 2009, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. announced a new GC / MS technology, which is suitable for dioxins analysis in food products.



Thermo Scientific DFS HRGC / HRMS system can meet the requirement for low-level dioxin detection, even complex samples with relatively high background interference. In addition, Thermo Scientific TSQ Quantum GC can scan dioxin, so that rapid identification of dioxin can be achieved. Therefore, the sample

needed for dioxin quantitative analysis with HRGC / HRMS can be greatly reduced. For labs engaged in dioxin analysis research, the system can reduce the analysis cost greatly.

New Environmentally Sound Sinter Production Technology Elected the 2008 Top 10 Technology News in World's Iron and Steel Industry

In January 2009, the World Metals announced the 2008 top 10 technology news in the world's iron and steel industry, Eposint & Meros advanced sintering technology was among the top 10.

Currently, the environmental emission limits or standards of the sinter production become more and more stringent, and the Eposint sinter emission selective circulatory system (environmentally sound sintering with optimized process) jointly developed by Siemens VAI and VAI steel, combined with the MEROS new dry dust removal system developed by Siemens VAI can achieve this high emission standards. Eposint has the following advantages: reducing significantly production of waste gas, saving investment and operation costs on waste gas purification, utilizing waste heat and reducing fuel consumption

by secondary combustion of carbon monoxide, thus providing economic solution to expanding production capacity with existing sinter equipment (by increasing the length and width of sintering machine.)

The MEROS new dry dust removal system developed by Siemens VAI is a very effective dry waste gas purification technique. There are two options for main desulfurizers based on customer requirements and field conditions: baking soda or hydrated lime. The technique reduces the volume of dust, acid gases and harmful metals and organic components in the waste gas of sintering plant to a level much lower than gas treated with traditional technology.

Application shows: dust emissions are reduced by more than 99%, to lower than 5mg/Nm³; mercury and lead emissions by 97% and 99%; removal rate for organic substances, such as dioxins and furans (PCDD / F), as well as volatile organic (VOC) is higher than 99%; SO₂ emissions are also significantly lower than previous levels.

Japan Dioxin Monitoring Expert Awarded by Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences

On February 16th, 2009, Mr. Hiroyasu

Ito from the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan and Mr. Toru Matsumura from Edea (Corp.) Environment Creation Research Institute were awarded by President of Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, Mr. Wang Yuqing, for their years of dedication to the establishment of China's Key Laboratory for dioxin pollution control. In particular, their achievements in testing technology and personnel training were highly recognized. Mr. Shiozaki-tatsuya from Japan's Environmental Health Center was also awarded (absent due to work reasons).

China's Key Laboratory for dioxin pollution control was officially named on February 13th, 2008, it mainly

carries out research in seven areas such as technological support for Convention Implementation.



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