



PFCAs and Precursors: A Proposed Action Plan for Assessment and Management

An Introduction

Consultation Meeting on
PFCA Action Plan
February 2006

Outline

Proposed Action Plan addresses 6 elements:

- New Substances:
 - a. proposal on substances currently prohibited
 - b. policy for future notifications
- Reduce “residuals” in existing substances
- Prioritize and assess existing PFCAs and precursors
- Research
- International Cooperation
- Notice of Intent

1(a) New Substances: Proposal on substances currently prohibited

- Maintain prohibitions on four new substances
- To be accomplished by “proposing a regulation”
- In concrete terms, this requires publishing:
 - a proposal to list the substances on Schedule 1 of CEPA 1999, and
 - a proposed regulation.
- Regulatory deadline of June 23, 2006

1(b) New Substances: Policy for Future Notifications

- Consistent with the 4 substances, prohibitions will be recommended for long chain PFCA precursors proposed for introduction into Canada
 - Long chain fluorotelomer based substances are a source of long chain PFCAs in the environment
 - This precautionary approach will prevent new precursors from being introduced into the Canadian market until uncertainties are addressed

2. Reduction of “Residuals” in Existing Substances

- Seek to reduce “residual” fluorotelomer intermediates in commercial substances
- This addresses a well characterized source of PFCA precursors
- Certain companies have indicated significant reductions are achievable

3. Assessment of Existing Substances

- Prioritize the assessment of existing PFCAs and precursors
- Need to gather more information on the degradation of fluorotelomer based substances
- Assessment will consider all available information
- Conclusions will prompt a review of the Action Plan which will be amended if needed

4. Research

- Input into research plans highlighting questions relevant to assessment and management.
- Will reduce uncertainties on sources, reaction rates, mechanisms, pathways and effects.
- New data will improve assessments and refine management approaches.
- Research on alternatives may offer effective ecologically sound replacements.

5. International Cooperation

- Cooperative and complimentary approaches will be sought with other regulatory bodies
- Long Range Transport issues highlight the need for international cooperation
- Cooperation would be advantageous as a global industry is implicated, involving several manufacturers, numerous substances, large numbers of users and a wide array of products.

6. Notice of Intent

- A “Notice of Intent” will be published in the Canada Gazette to communicate all elements of the Action Plan
 - concurrent with regulatory proposals for the four new substances
 - will supplement the communication of the proposed regulation with other aspects of the Action Plan.

Summary

- This proposed Action Plan develops a response to the issues consisting of:
 - restricting introduction into Canada of new sources of long chain PFCAs
 - taking steps to reduce well described sources (residuals)
 - encouraging further research to reduce uncertainties, particularly with regard to sources other than residuals
 - Prioritizing assessment of Existing Substances
 - amending the Action Plan as necessary following assessment conclusions
 - cooperating with other jurisdictions