

## INFORMATION NOTE

The *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (the Convention) enables the world to monitor and control the trade in certain hazardous chemicals. The goal of the Convention is not to ban the trade or use of specific chemicals. It allows importing Parties to make informed decisions on which of these chemicals they want to receive and to exclude. If trade does take place, requirements for labelling and provision of information on potential health and environmental effects will promote the safe use of these chemicals. In Canada, the *Export of Substances Under the Rotterdam Convention Regulations* apply to exports subject to the Convention and ensure exports satisfy the labelling requirements and compliance with the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

The PIC procedure is a mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing Parties as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of those chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and for ensuring compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties.

A Conference of the Parties (COP) oversees the operation of the Convention. The COP is the body responsible for making decisions, including amendments to Annex III where chemicals subject to the PIC procedure are listed. Decisions on listing chemicals to Annex III are made by consensus.

All Parties are required to take a decision as to whether or not they will allow future import of each of the chemicals in Annex III of the Convention. Import decisions taken by Parties must be trade neutral, that is, if the Party decides not to accept imports of a specific chemical, it must also stop domestic production of the chemical for domestic use and refuse imports from any source, including from non-parties.

All exporting Parties are required to ensure that exports of chemicals subject to the PIC procedure do not occur contrary to the decision of each importing Party.

Canada ensures that the export of any chemical listed to Annex III of the Convention complies with the PIC procedure and the labelling requirements of the Convention.

For additional information on the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade* you may consult the following website: [www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int).