

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
3 Whitehall Pl, Westminster
London SW1A 2HP
United Kingdom

15 March 2021

RE: Concerns regarding proposed nomination of C14-C17 $\geq 45\%$ Cl to the Stockholm Convention list of Persistent Organic Pollutants

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, are responding to the 18 January 2021 proposal by the United Kingdom (UK) Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) regarding its proposal to nominate “Chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C₁₄₋₁₇ and chlorination levels $\geq 45\%$ chlorine by weight” – commonly referred to as medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP) - to the list of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention. As explained further in these comments and in additional submissions by individual coalition members, we believe that the UK’s proposal does not demonstrate that MCCP meets the criteria in Annex D of the Stockholm Convention and that this proposal should be withdrawn.

Based on the available data, we understand that:

- A) MCCP does not meet the POP criteria as established in Annex D of the Stockholm Convention because:
 - a. Biodegradation data on MCCP materials above 45% Cl (wt.) show them to be readily or inherently biodegradable. These materials are therefore not persistent.
 - b. Weight of evidence (WoE) assessments (separately provided by the MCCP REACH Consortium) of the bioaccumulation potential of MCCP, including a new assessment using the comprehensive Bioaccumulation Assessment Tool (BAT), indicate MCCP is not bioaccumulative in food webs and does not biomagnify.
 - c. MCCPs have not been proven to have potential for long-range transport. They are not volatile and are very poorly soluble in water.
- B) Monitoring data from Canada, Europe, UK and the United States (US) are all below environmental and health safety levels (e.g. Predicted No Effect Concentrations, PNECs) demonstrating that adverse effects to human health and environment are not occurring in these regions. These data support the fact that MCCP can be safely manufactured and used when appropriate handling measures are in place.
- C) The December 2019 REACH Substance Evaluation prepared by the UK, notes that all risks associated with MCCP use are controlled in the UK and European Union (EU).
- D) Other regulatory alternatives to control these substances have not been explored or discussed fully with industry and other stakeholders.

Our organisations and members have actively participated in, and constructively contributed to, the assessment of MCCP in the UK, EU, North America and globally through testing, exposure assessment, and other data generation. Our members take the proper handling and environmental management of MCCP throughout the value-chain very seriously. This is fully acknowledged in the UK's December 2019 REACH Substance Evaluation of MCCP which concluded that the environmental exposure scenarios for MCCP (in the UK and EU) are "well described" and none of these scenarios present an ongoing risk to human health or the environment. A similar assessment of MCCPs in the US by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded in 2019 that MCCPs and long-chain chlorinated paraffins (LCCPs) "do not create an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment" when used in current applications. We believe this fully demonstrates that MCCP are, and can be in the future, used safely and appropriately by responsible parties.

We hope that DEFRA considers these comments with the upmost gravity with which they are presented given the highly detrimental impacts of this proposed action. MCCP has enormous socioeconomic benefits both in the UK and throughout the world from its use in the production of building materials that are fire retardant to the manufacture of precision metal parts for aerospace, automotive, defence and medical applications. MCCP products, such as one component spray foam, help reduce heating and cooling costs lowering energy use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. MCCP containing PVC cables are recyclable and successfully recycled. In Europe, PVC recycling from cables reached 142,603 tonnes in 2019 thanks to the VinylPlus programme, saving more than 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

To the extent that the UK has concerns about the way in which MCCPs and related CPs are managed in the various regions of the world, we believe that the Stockholm Convention is not the best forum for addressing these concerns. The UK could instead promote chemical risk management programmes in countries that have not been able to demonstrate safe usage of MCCPs. Such programmes would likely have benefits far beyond just managing MCCPs because they provide a better platform and procedures for the handling and environmental management of a broad range of chemicals.

We kindly request that DEFRA fully examine these being provided by the coalition members and other interested stakeholders and reconsider this POPs nomination. We remain available to clarify any aspect of our concerns or to provide additional information to illustrate our points. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We thank you for enabling our comments on this proposal and for considering these as part of the nomination process.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chloroalkanes Product Group



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chlorinated Paraffins Industry Association



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PVC4Cables



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
China chlor alkali Industry Association



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
FEICA – Association of the European
Adhesive and Sealant Industry



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Vinyl Environment Council Japan



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
American Chemistry Council

