



November 2022

Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)

Background for the proposed decision

Hexachlorobutadiene is listed as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants due to its high persistence in the environment, high bioaccumulation potential, strong potential for long-range environmental transport and chronic toxic effects.

The Industrial Chemicals Environmental Managements Standard Advisory Committee has provided advice on the scheduling of hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD).

The proposed decision for hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) sets out:

- That HCBD should be listed in Schedule 7 of the IChEMS Register
- The prohibitions, restrictions and risk management measures that must apply for HCBD. These conditions were modelled off the existing European Union's updated implementation of regulations for persistent organic pollutants (Regulation EU 2019/1021).

Further information on historical uses and chemical identity, for this chemical and other Stockholm-listed chemicals, can be found in the document [Chemical Profile - PeCB, HBB, HCBD and PCN](#).

What the proposed decision means for you

Hexachlorobutadiene may have previously been used as an intermediate in chlorinated chemical manufacture, in hydraulic, heat transfer or transformer fluids, as a solvent for rubber and other polymers, as a "scrubber" to recover chlorine containing gas or to remove volatile organic components from gas, and in the production of aluminium and graphite rods.

Based on information collected by the Australian Government, HCBD has not had any widespread use in Australia for at least 20 years. These chemicals are not expected to be present in products or finished goods ('articles') or have significant waste management issues.

The proposed decision includes prohibitions and restrictions to stop widespread use of HCBD from starting again.

- The import, manufacture and export of HCBD would be prohibited, with limited exceptions.
- You would be allowed to use HCBD for research or laboratory purposes or where the chemical is present in finished goods ('articles') that are already in use.
- These controls would not apply if HCBD is unintentionally present in a very small amount.

If you handle waste containing HCBD, you would be required to manage the waste as set out in the proposed decision. This includes:

- Taking measures to avoid contaminating other wastes with HCBD.
- Disposing of waste containing HCBD in a particular way.
- Not recovering, recycling, reclaiming or re-using HCBD on its own (in other words, as a 'neat' chemical).
- Managing stockpiles of waste containing HCBD in a particular way.

Businesses who handle HCBD would also be required to comply with the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) Minimum Standards.

The IChEMS Minimum Standards provide nationally consistent, practical, and risk-based baseline requirements for environmental management of industrial chemicals in Australia. They are designed to be adaptable to varying business needs and local requirements.

More information

Email ichems.enquiry@agriculture.gov.au

Web <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/chemicals-management/national-standard>

Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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