

GUIDANCE ON APPLYING FOR SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS ON THREE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS: LONG CHAIN PERFLUOROCARBOXYLIC ACIDS (LC-PFCAs); MEDIUM-CHAIN CHLORINATED PARAFFINS (MCCPs) AND UV-328 UNDER ANNEX A OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION.

29 May 2026 | 10am – 11am



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Introduction to the Stockholm Convention (SC)

- The SC is a global environmental treaty signed on May 22, 2001, and came into force on May 17, 2004. SA became a party on 4th September 2002 DFFE is the focal point.
- The aim of the SC is to protect human health and the environment from POPs
- POPs are chemicals that are Persistence, Long-Range Transport, Bioaccumulate, Toxic
- Exposure to POPs can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, and damages to the central nervous systems.
- The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) is a subsidiary body to the Stockholm Convention established for reviewing candidate chemicals
- How does the POPRC review chemicals?
 - Submission of proposal by a party
 - Screening phase (**SA publish a notice in the government gazette**)
 - Risk profile
 - Risk management evaluation
- POPRC recommend the chemical for listing to Conference of the Parties (COP)
- The COP shall decide whether to list the chemical in Annexure A, B or C.
- Some chemicals are listed for banning with specific exemptions

Process of applying for exemptions

- Parties may register for specific exemptions listed in Annex A
- Specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, unless an earlier date is indicated by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties
- Some specific exemptions may have longer timeframe, e.g. UV-328 is exempted until the end of the service life of the article or 2044, whichever comes earlier for replacement parts for articles.
- A Party may withdraw a specific exemption at any time, upon written notification to the Secretariat.
- No new registrations may be made with respect to a particular type of specific exemption when there are no longer any Parties registered to it.
- Parties are required to ban other uses that were not exempted (Regulations)

Process of applying for exemptions

- Parties are requested to send the duly completed form to the Secretariat by e-mail (brs@un.org).
- The form must be submitted by an entity duly authorized by the Government to communicate such information to the Secretariat.
- Information transmitted will be included in the register of specific exemptions and made available on the website of the Stockholm Convention.

Process of applying for exemptions

Activity	Specific exemption	Party	Expiry date	Estimated quantity of production / use	Purpose(s) of production / use	Reason for exemption	Remarks
Use	01. Parts of motor vehicles (covering all land-based vehicles, such as cars, motorcycles, agricultural and construction vehicles and industrial trucks), such as bumper systems, radiator grills, spoilers, car garnish, roof modules, soft/hard tops, trunk lids and rear window wipers	South Africa	26/02/2030	2.02 grams per year; 35,000 vehicles (less than 1g per vehicle)	01. Parts of motor vehicles (covering all land-based vehicles, such as cars, motorcycles, agricultural and construction vehicles and industrial trucks), such as bumper systems, radiator grills, spoilers, car garnish, roof modules, soft/hard tops, trunk lids and rear window wipers	Lifecycle exemption required. After Sales business do not develop new parts; instead, use the same parts as those used in series production. • At present, no viable alternative is available. "UV-328 is an important additive in the preparation of TAC film, its main role is to improve the barrier ability of TAC film for ultraviolet irradiation, in order to protect liquid crystal molecules from ultraviolet rays. As the core component of polarizers, TAC film is widely used in displays, lens, camera lens, etc. At present, TAC membrane production enterprises have not found available alternatives. UV-328 is also used in photosensitive materials like photographic paper to prevent photoaging. The substitution involves stringent assessment about physicochemical properties, photosensitivity and anti-fading properties. It is difficult to find qualified alternatives in a short time." • UV-328 is used for the LCD in the color viewfinder (color Viewfinder contains UV-328 in the TAC film of the LCD.) • The chemicals are used in display products and without exemption, it will result in vehicles not to be sold in S.A.	This is a consolidated summary of various exemptions applications for companies in South Africa



Thank You!



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