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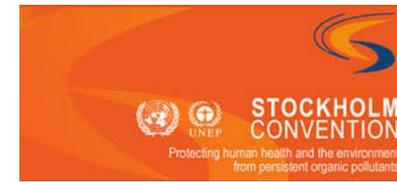
Update following Stockholm Convention COP in May 2025

July 2025

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UN Stockholm Convention on POPs



- A global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals classified as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Convention signed in 2001 & entered into force in 2004; over 180 Parties
- Requires Parties to:
 - **Eliminate or restrict production, use, and placing on the market of POPs**
 - Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs
 - **Ensure stockpiles and wastes** consisting or containing or contaminated with POPs are **managed safely and in environmentally sound manner**
 - *Crossover with Basel Convention on Disposal of Hazardous Wastes*



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Why do these COP outcomes matter?

A brief refresher

Domestic implementation of the Stockholm Convention

Substance is nominated as potential POP and then reviewed at Convention level (multi-year multi-stage process – see later slides)



If substance agreed to be listed as POP at Convention level, Parties then implement into their domestic legislation

- *Some* flexibility in how to do this under the Convention, but not much.
- It *typically* takes *approx.* 18mths from COP agreement before additions enter into force for the Convention: this is the default deadline for individual Parties to implement new additions domestically.

Domestic implementation of the Stockholm Convention

Key implementing regulations for GB

- assimilated POPs Regulation (Defra-lead)
- assimilated Export & Import of Certain Hazardous Chemicals Regulation (HSE-lead) i.e. GB PIC

- **Once a new substance is implemented in domestic legislation**
 - **Production** of substance is prohibited
 - **Use** of substance and articles containing substance is prohibited
 - **Import/export** of substance is prohibited
 - **Waste** controls are introduced for waste containing or contaminated by these substances (e.g. redirect from landfill/recycling to incineration)

Points to note on domestic implementation

POPs Regulation compared to REACH

- **More stringent** prohibition than a restriction through UK (or EU) REACH
- Once agreed by COP, domestic implementation is also **swifter**, and with shorter transition times

Some exemptions may be available for continued production and/or use of newly added substances

- **Specified uses**, for limited time (the Convention agrees a list of options, but Parties register & legislate themselves)
- **Articles already in use** at time of prohibition of that substance
- Presence as **unintentional trace contaminants**
- Use for **laboratory-scale research** or as a **reference standard**

It is important that UK and global stakeholders share information on impacts early with decision-makers.

- This includes users of these substances and users of products made from these substances
 - It also includes users/producers of products which contain *component articles* or *subcomponents* that contain these substances
 - Complex global supply chains may be affected if industry are not aware and self-aware
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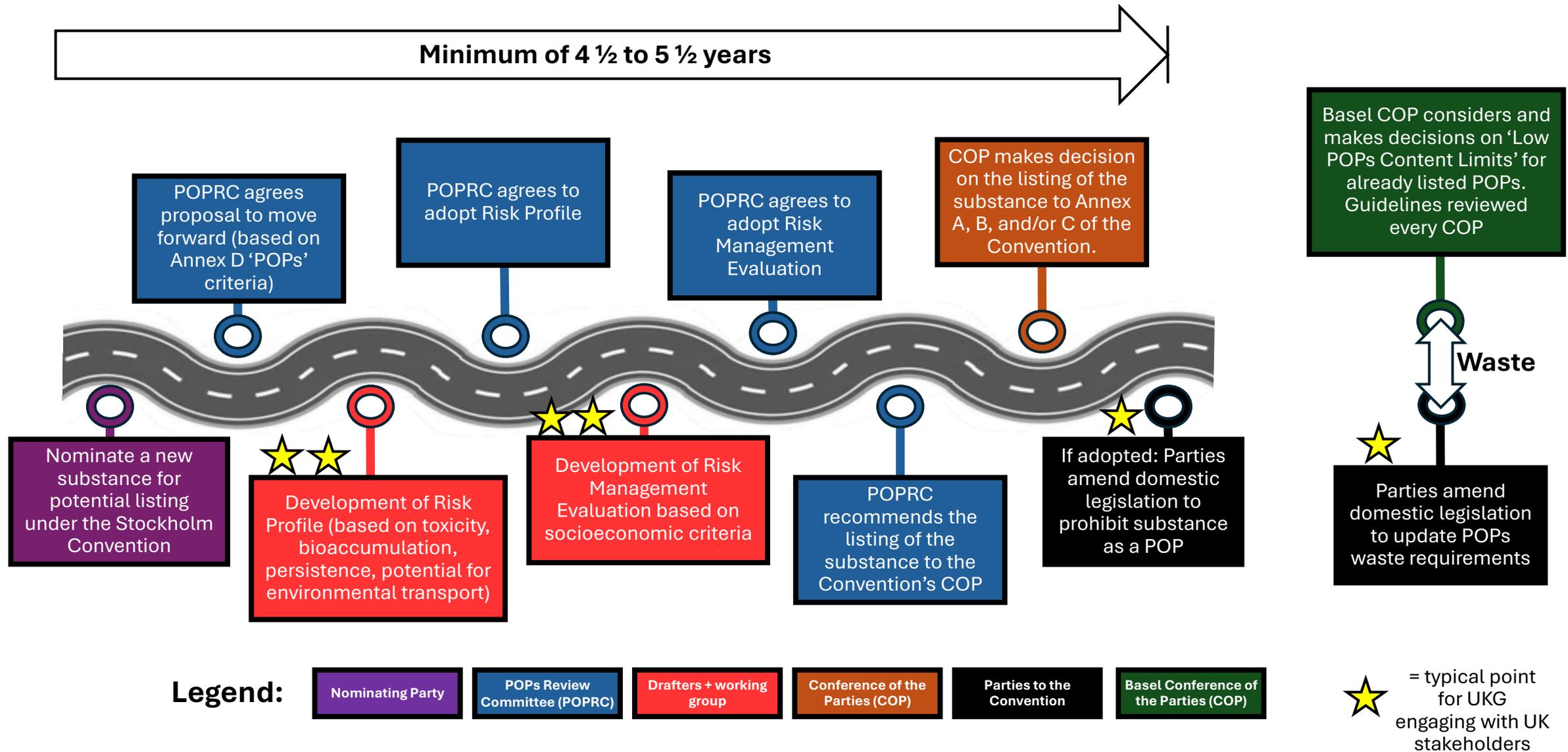


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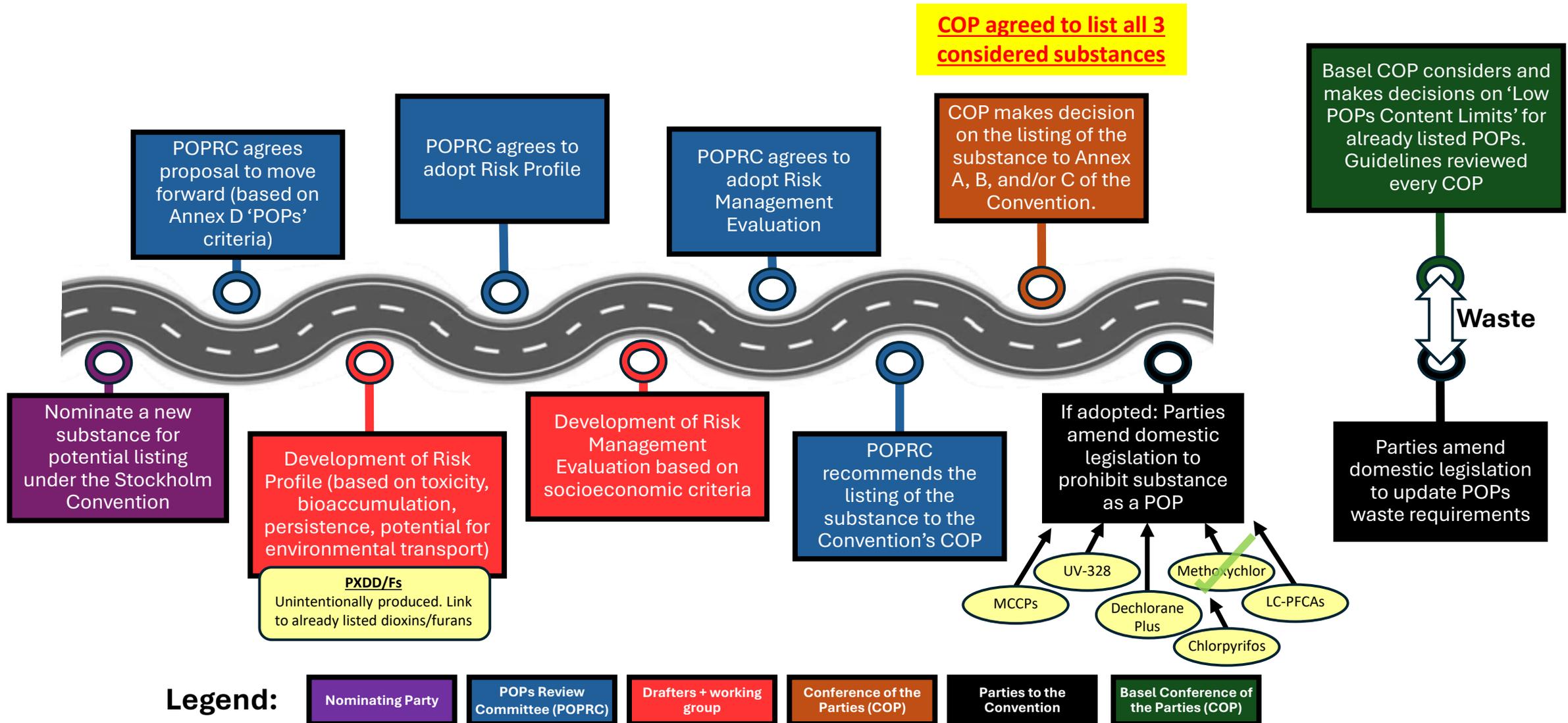
The 'New POPs' Journey

**The Stockholm Convention, the POPs
Review Committee, and domestic
implementation**

The 'New POPs' Journey



Status of nominated substances as of May 2025 (post COP)





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New Stockholm Convention substance listings

From COPs in 2023 & 2025

Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs)

Quick look

Uses	Multiple, including: plasticiser and flame retardant in PVC products and adhesives/sealants/rubbers/coatings, and as an additive in metal-working fluids
Convention agreed exemptions*	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible PVC for certain uses• Adhesives and sealants for specified uses or certain sectors (aerospace and defence)• Polymers and rubbers used in repair and replacement parts for certain uses and sectors• Metalworking fluids• Certain defence uses
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UK nomination in 2021, agreed for listing in May 2025• Wide-spread historic (and current) global use

*See document pack (decision text & Risk Management Evaluation) for full details of exemptions content and timings and alternatives

Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs), including their salts and related compounds

Quick look

Uses	Multiple, including: food packaging and firefighting foams, and unintentionally produced during the manufacture of other PFAS
Convention agreed exemptions*	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Semiconductors designed for replacement parts in general and for combustion-engine-powered vessels• Replacement parts for motor vehicles that have ceased mass production
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed for listing in May 2025• Minimal engagement from UK stakeholders on this substance, but aware it may be present as an unintentional trace contaminant in some processes.• Lack of engagement may indicate minimal ongoing or current global use.

*See document pack (decision text & Risk Management Evaluation) for full details of exemptions content and timings and alternatives

Chlorpyrifos

Quick look

Uses	Pesticide
Convention agreed exemptions*	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various specified crop-pest combinations• Wood preservation against borers and termites in building foundation
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed for listing in May 2025• Not produced or registered for use in the UK

*See document pack (decision text & Risk Management Evaluation) for full details of exemptions content and timings and alternatives

UV-328

Quick look

Uses	A UV-absorber, protecting materials (plastics, coatings, adhesives, sealants) against degradation under UV radiation
Convention agreed exemptions*	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical separators in blood collection tubes• Industrial coating applications for various uses• Replacement parts for: LCD displays in medical/IVDD/analytical instruments; motor vehicles; stationary industrial machines
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed for listing in 2023• Additional exemptions for aerospace applications agreed in May 2025• Implementation in GB delayed. Implementation expected in EU in late summer 2025

*See document pack (decision text) for full details of exemptions content and timings

Dechlorane Plus

Quick look

Uses	Chlorinated flame retardant used in adhesives, sealants and polymers (replacement for older POP decaBDE)
Convention agreed exemptions*	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement & and repair of articles in the following sectors & applications: Aerospace, Space, Defence; Motor vehicles; stationary industrial machines; medical/IVDD/analytical instruments; marine, garden, forestry and outdoor power equipment
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopted in 2023• No global production of DP by the time it was listed but articles containing DP are still being produced or placed on the market using stockpiles.• Implementation in GB delayed. Implementation expected in EU in late summer 2025

*See document pack (decision text) for full details of exemptions content and timings



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Upcoming Substances

**Nominated substances currently being
considered by the POPs Review
Committee (POPRC)**

Polybrominated dioxins and furans (PBDD/Fs) and mixed polybrominated/chlorinated dioxins and furans (PBCDD/Fs)

Quick look

Uses	Potential sources include as an unintentionally produced byproduct: commercial polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) mixtures; photolytic and thermal degradation of brominated flame retardants; industrial thermal processes
Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linked to <u>Polychlorinated</u> dioxins and furans (PCDD/Fs), which are already listed under the Convention (Annex C).• Spring 2027 is the earliest this could be discussed at COP for potential adoption
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk profile being drafted• POPRC and UKG each recently held two calls for information & comment on this nomination. Future calls will be held on draft evaluation documents if the nomination progresses to the next stage/s

Future nominations?

- **Hard to predict**
- Potentially:
 - more brominated flame retardants...?
 - more PFAS...?
- EU have previously proposed nominating cyclic siloxanes D4, D5, and D6, but they have since gone quiet on this
- EU currently consulting on brominated flame retardant Bis(2-ethylhexyl) tetrabromophthalate (TBPH)
- Any nominated substance will take several years for POPRC evaluation stages before being decided on by COP



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Next steps on the five new POPs

**Legislation and regulatory divergence
considerations**

What's next?

- **Reflect on recent domestic/international changes**

Including international decisions and recent domestic legislative updates

- **Monitor potential GB/NI divergence**

What is the likely impact on Northern Ireland of the EU's POPs prohibitions coming into force? Imminently for UV-328 and DP, but also for other substances. Will GB supply be impacted?

- **Further updates needed following COP**

Considering further legislative changes following recent COP decisions. Intend to plan and deliver legislative updates to implement amendments to the Stockholm Convention: Methoxychlor already in force domestically, but five more POPs not currently in force (MCCPs, Chlorpyrifos, LC-PFCAs, UV-328, and Dieldrin). Detail, sequencing, timelines all TBC.

- **International planning**

Next POPRC meeting (autumn 2025); next COP (spring 2027)



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Any questions?

Where to find out more

Domestic:

- [GOV.UK POPs Collection page](#): a place to find information and guidance on POPs, plus live and future UK calls for information and consultations relevant to POPs and the POPRC process

Convention:

- [Stockholm Convention webpage on those chemicals proposed for listing](#) under the Convention:
- Where to find out about [ongoing calls for information or comments at Convention level](#):

Typical annual cycle for nominated substances

Time of Year	1. Convention-level meetings	2a. Convention-level calls for information on new substances	2b. Equivalent domestic calls for information on new substances
Autumn	POPRC (annual): considers relevant evaluation stage of nominated substance/s; potential for agreement to progress to next evaluation stage/s or to make recommendations to COP	Post-POPRC public call for information to inform drafting of evaluation documents	Post-POPRC public call for information to inform UKG's response to POPRC's call
Winter	-	-	-
Spring	COP (every two years): makes decisions on POPRC's recommendations regarding fully-evaluated substance/s	Call for comments on draft evaluation documents	Call for comments to inform UKG's response to POPRC's calls
Summer	-	-	-

- Convention-level calls are hosted on the Stockholm Convention's website
- Equivalent domestic calls are hosted on GOV.UK.
- Tight deadlines due to international workplans