

Annex III

**DRAFT GENERIC GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNICAL REVIEW OF DOSSIERS OF
NEW SUBSTANCES THAT MAY BE PROPOSED BY PARTIES FOR INCLUSION
INTO ANNEXES I, II AND III TO THE PROTOCOL**

Introduction

1. Article 14 of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) lays down procedures for Parties that make a proposal (dossier) to add a substance to its annex I, II or III. It refers to Executive Body decision 1998/2, which details the information the proposal must contain, and provides a framework for reviewing it. The Task Force on POPs will prepare technical reviews of a proposal when requested to do so, and will present relevant documentation on it to the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Executive Body decision 2003/10, para. 4)

A. Objective and intent

2. These guidelines provide generic guidance for the Task Force when undertaking technical reviews of a proposal (ECE/EB.AIR/79/Add.2, item 1.5 (c)). They are intended to provide a simple framework to achieve uniformity and consistency in expeditious reviews, and to reduce the level of uncertainty for all involved (i.e. the Party making the proposal, the Task Force and its reviewers, the Working Group on Strategies and Review, the Parties to the Protocol and the Executive Body).

B. Procedure for review

3. Upon receipt of a proposal in accordance with article 14 of the Protocol, the Executive Body will decide if the risk profile element is deemed acceptable. If so, the Executive Body will ask one or more technical reviews of the proposal to be undertaken. The Task Force will then simultaneously begin two-track review.

4. Track A will review those elements of the proposal and other information that may have been forwarded by the Executive Body which are relevant to a decision being made whether or not the substance should be considered POP. This review will focus upon the elements in paragraph 1 (a) - (d) of Executive Body decision 1998/2, and be evaluated, inter alia, in accordance with its paragraph 2 (a) and (b), taking note of paragraph 3.

5. Track B will review those elements of the proposal and other information that may have been forwarded by the Executive Body which are related to the development of a strategy for the

substance. This review will focus upon the elements referred to in paragraph 1 (second part) of Executive Body decision 1998/2 and be evaluated in accordance with its paragraph 2, taking note of paragraph 3.

6. Small ad hoc peer review teams of experts may be created to prepare draft reviews for consideration by the Task Force. Participation in such teams will be decided by the Task Force. They will consist of well-recognized experts from Parties to the Convention [preferably Parties to the Protocol]. They should not include an expert who participated in the preparation of the proposal. Separate teams may be established to deal with individual proposals or a single team may deal with several proposals, as decided by the Task Force. Different teams may be established to deal with different elements in a given proposal. Teams for track A reviews will preferably consist of three experts. It is expected that teams will work mainly remotely although meetings may be necessary. Peer review teams would be disbanded as soon as they have completed their task(s).

7. The Task Force will discuss the draft peer reviews prepared by the review teams and prepare reports for the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

C. Nature of the task force reviews

8. The review's assessment of the proposal will provide critical scientific evaluation of the technical content of the proposal against each of the requirements outlined in Executive Body decision 1998/2, and advise on the degree to which the information provided supports the proposal.

9. The review will be transparent and will include critical evaluation of such aspects as, inter alia, availability, reliability, completeness and relevance of the information and references.

10. In the case of reviews of track B, the Task Force will respond to any additional requests from the Working Group on Strategies and Review for technical advice.

D. Time schedule and reporting (outputs)

Following decision by the Parties to the Protocol at a session of the Executive Body that a submitted risk profile is deemed acceptable, and the Task Force is requested to undertake a technical review, the Task Force will:

- (a) Simultaneously initiate track A and B reviews without delay;
- (b) Report in writing to the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its work related

to track A as specified in the annual work-plan of the Executive Body. If so instructed, the Task Force will report on its track A review at the meeting of the Working Group on Strategies and Review that immediately precedes the next session of the Executive Body. This will enable the Parties to the Protocol to decide on the need to further consider the proposal at that time, should they wish to do so;

(c) Continue with its track B review of the proposal (should the Parties to the Protocol decide to further consider the proposal), and provide the necessary review information in writing to the Working Group on Strategies and Review according to the work-plan of the Executive Body and as may be elaborated by the Working Group. This will facilitate the development of a strategy for the substance and provide Parties to the Protocol with the necessary information for decision-making at sessions of the Executive Body. If the Parties to the Protocol meeting at a session of the Executive Body decide not to further consider the substance, the Task Force will terminate its work on the proposal.

All reports will be prepared and approved by the Task Force according to the provisions contained in Executive Body decision 2003/10.