

Obstacles in Risk Management of PFOS

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Perfluorooctane Sulphonate (PFOS) and PFOS-related compounds are members of the large family of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), which are used as surface-active agents in different applications. Many studies have concluded that PFOS is present and persistent in the environment with toxicity and bioaccumulation potential to human and environment, therefore the international society decide to conduct risk management actions on PFOS. In 2005 PFOS and 96 PFOS-related substances were proposed to be listed in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

PFOS and PFOS-related compounds are produced and used in China, and many studies illustrate PFOS exist in the environment and human body in several places in China. Therefore China start taking risk management measures on PFOS by request of protecting environment and human health, and obligations as a Contracting Party of POPs Convention.

However we find many obstacles on risk management of PFOS in China based on the analysis on the supply chain of PFOS including difficulty of data collection and processing, insufficiency of supervision capacity, lack of effective and economical substitutes, complexity of confirming management object, vacancy of policy and standard and so on. Furthermore several possible suggestion plans will be discussed to the question. And the discussion will be extended to the chemicals in articles and products.

PFOS is typically reflected the difficulty and complexity of risk management on chemicals in articles and products which need sufficient understanding and vast information on supply chain concerning the chemicals.