

# Chemicals (incl. PIC)

## 1 Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

### 1.1 General

#### 1.1.1 Legal framework

Switzerland is a signatory State to the Rotterdam Convention of 10<sup>th</sup> September 1998 on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (Rotterdam Convention PIC; [CC 0.916.21](#)).

This convention regulates the international trade in certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. The Parties are committed to reaching a decision on whether the import of certain chemicals named in the Convention should be prohibited and on the conditions under which this should be allowed (Import decisions).

This procedure is called **Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**. Deliveries of chemicals contrary to the wishes of the importing country are not permitted.

In addition, the Convention obliges the Parties to notify the recipient country of exports of chemicals that are banned or strictly regulated in the exporting country.

The national implementing provisions are to be found in the Ordinance relating to the Import and Export of Dangerous Substances and Preparations (PIC Ordinance, ChemPICO; [CC 814.82](#)).

#### 1.1.2 Reference in Tares

The reference to «PIC» in Tares indicates that the corresponding goods may be subject to the PIC legal provisions of the ChemPICO.

#### 1.1.3 Information

For more information, please contact the following office:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)  
Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division  
Industrial Chemicals Section  
3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)58 462 83 44  
+41 (0)58 463 11 99  
+41 (0)58 463 16 00 (secretariat)

E-mail [picdna@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:picdna@bafu.admin.ch)

Website [www.bafu.admin.ch/pic](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/pic)

#### 1.1.4 Detailed information

FOCBS's website → Documentation → Regulations → [R-60 Non-customs legislative instruments: R-60-6.7 Commerce avec des produits chimiques et des pesticides \(PIC\) \(PDF\)](#)

## 1.2 Classification of chemicals

It is the responsibility of the importer or exporter to enquire about the provisions and the decisions on import taken by the contracting States and to abide by the corresponding legal requirements.

In [annex 1](#) and [2](#) of the Ordinance on the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Chemicals in International Trade ([CC 814.82](#)) specifies all types of chemicals subject to the PIC legislation.

### 1.2.1 Export of chemicals listed in annex 1 or 2 of the PIC Ordinance

Exporters of substances in accordance with [annex 1](#) or [2](#) must send export notification to the FOEN at the latest 30 days before the first intended export and for each calendar year and each recipient country. The FOEN will then register each export and assign it a reference identification number. This number shall be valid for the calendar year.

In addition, exporters of substances or preparations in accordance with [annex 2](#) must comply with the decisions from the importing country.

## 1.2.2 Import of chemicals listed in annex 2 of the PIC Ordinance

Importers of substances or preparations in accordance with [annex 2](#) must comply with the Swiss decisions.

## 1.3 Details to be provided in the customs declaration

### 1.3.1 Export of chemicals listed in annex 1 or 2 in the e-dec or NCTS System

Any person exporting substances listed in [annex 1](#) or [annex 2](#) to the PIC Ordinance must enter the authorisation mandatory code «1 yes» and the authority office «BAFU - PIC».

In Addition, the person subject to declaration obligation must enter the identification number in the customs declaration as an authorisation and enter the CAS No. of the substances concerned in the goods description field.

### 1.3.2 Export of chemicals listed in annex 1 or 2 in the Passar system

Any person exporting substances listed in [annex 1](#) or [annex 2](#) to the PIC Ordinance must state the restriction requirement in the «Restriction» data field of the goods declaration and enter the Restriction Code «410 BAFU PIC».

In Addition, the identification number must be entered in the data field «Authorisation» and the CAS No. of the substance concerned in the data field «Additional Information - Commodity Specification CAS No. PIC».

### 1.3.3 Import of chemicals listed in annex 2

Upon import of substances listed in [annex 2](#), the person subject to declaration obligation must enter the NZE mandatory code «1 NZE: yes» and the NZE type code 030 «PIC» in the e-dec or NCTS customs declaration.

**Recommendation:** The FOEN recommends that the expected use of the chemical be indicated under «**Special remarks**» section in the position data or under «**Documentation**» section.

## 1.4 Further Information

Further information can be found on the following webpage: [www.bazg.admin.ch](http://www.bazg.admin.ch)

→ Customs declaration → Declaration companies → e-dec Export → [Handbuch e-dec Export für externe Kunden/Firmen](#) (available in German, French and Italian)

→ Documentation → Regulations → R-60 Non-customs legislative instruments → Bereich Allgemeines → Richtlinie [R-60-0.2 Äusserung zu Regulierungen bei Anmeldungen im Warenverkehrssystem Passar](#) (available in German, French and Italian)

## 2 Substances stable in the atmosphere

The FOEN is responsible for authorisations in the area of substances stable in the air:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)  
Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division  
Section Biocides and Plant Protection Products  
3003 Bern

Tel.                   +41 (0)58 465 09 32  
                          +41 (0)58 485 63 27

E-mail               [chemicals@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:chemicals@bafu.admin.ch)  
Website             [www.bafu.admin.ch/substances\\_stable\\_in\\_the\\_atmosphere](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/substances_stable_in_the_atmosphere)

Detailed descriptions of the declaration of the authorisation requirement in the goods declaration in this area follow.

### 3 Ozone-depleting substances

The FOEN is responsible for authorisations in the area of ozone-depleting substances:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)  
Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division  
Section Biocides and Plant Protection Products  
3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)58 465 09 32  
+41 (0)58 485 63 27

E-mail [chemicals@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:chemicals@bafu.admin.ch)  
Website [www.bafu.admin.ch/substances that deplete the ozone layer](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/substances%20that%20deplete%20the%20ozone%20layer)

Detailed descriptions of the declaration of the authorisation requirement in the goods declaration in this area follow.

### 4 Plant Protection Product Export

The FOEN is responsible for authorisations for the exportation of plant protection products:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)  
Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division  
Section Industrial Chemicals  
3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)58 462 11 99  
+41 (0)58 463 03 63

E-mail [picdna@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:picdna@bafu.admin.ch)  
Website [www.bafu.admin.ch/plant protection product](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/plant%20protection%20product)

Detailed descriptions of the declaration of the authorisation requirement in the goods declaration in this area follow.

### 5 Mercury

The FOEN is responsible for authorisations in the area of mercury:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)  
Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division  
Section Industrial Chemicals  
3003 Bern

Tel. +41 (0)58 462 11 99  
+41 (0)58 463 03 63

E-mail [minamata@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:minamata@bafu.admin.ch)  
Website [www.bafu.admin.ch/mercury](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/mercury)

Detailed descriptions of the declaration of the authorisation requirement in the goods declaration in this area follow.