



BERGESON & CAMPBELL, P.C.

1203 Nineteenth Street, NW | Suite 300 | Washington, DC | 20036-2401 | tel 202.557.3800 | fax 202.557.3836 | web www.lawbc.com

MEMORANDUM

Via E-Mail

DATE: May 18, 2009

TO: Firm Clients and Friends

FROM: Bergeson & Campbell, P.C.

RE: Parties Add Chemicals to the Stockholm Convention; ICCM2 Ends with Agreement on Emerging Issues

At the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP), which ended on May 9, 2009, delegates agreed to add nine chemicals to the list of banned or restricted chemicals. The delegates added eight chemicals to Annex A: chlordecone; hexabromobiphenyl; lindane; alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; beta hexachlorocyclohexane; pentachlorobenzene; hexabromodiphenyl ether/heptabromodiphenyl ether; and tetrabromodiphenyl ether/pentabromodiphenyl ether. Chemicals listed under Annex A are subject to a ban on their use, import, and export. The delegates also agreed to add perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride to Annex B, subjecting it to restrictions on production and use. Parties agreed that, while the ultimate goal is the elimination of PFOS, production of the chemical may continue for “acceptable purposes,” including coatings for semiconductors, firefighting foam, photo imaging, aviation hydraulic fluids, metal plating, and certain medical devices. Countries must notify the Convention Secretariat whether they intend to continue production for “acceptable purposes.” Countries can also ask for specific exemptions allowing the production of PFOS for use in the production of chemical substances used in goods such as carpets, leather and apparel, textiles, paper and packaging, coatings, and rubber and plastics. More information on the Stockholm Convention is available at <http://www.pops.int/>.

The second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) ended on May 15, 2009, with, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “significant progress in several key areas and greater clarity on its priorities for future work.” The ICCM is the governing body of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which is part of UNEP. During ICCM2, delegates agreed to undertake work on five emerging issues -- nanotechnology, e-waste, lead in paint, chemicals in everyday products, and perfluorinated chemicals. Delegates also agreed that the linkages between health,



BERGESON & CAMPBELL, P.C.

Memorandum to Firm Clients and Friends
May 18, 2009
Page 2

sustainable development, and chemicals management should be accentuated, and laid the groundwork for substantially augmented financing for international chemicals management work. The next meeting will be held in 2012. More information on SAICM is available at <http://www.saicm.org/index.php?ql=h&content=home>.

* * * * *

We hope this information is helpful. As always, please call if you have any questions.