CARICOM REGIONAL STANDARD

Terminology and definitions for hazardous substances and products containing hazardous substances

FDCRS 80:202X

CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
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Committee representation

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Contents

Foreword

This CARICOM Regional Standard CRS 80:202X, *Terminology and definitions for hazardous substances and products containing hazardous substances* has been developed under the authority of the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). It was approved as a CARICOM Regional Standard by the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) at its XX Meeting in MM YYYY.

Several Member States of CARICOM are signatories to the following Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

a) The Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
b) The Minamata Convention on Mercury;
c) The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and
d) The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.

However, standard documented processes and measures need to be established by the Member States that would allow for full implementation of their obligations under the MEAs. This standard establishes a basis for a common understanding with respect to terminology for hazardous substances among Member States and therefore forms a part of the base on which other common standards, regulations, and legislations to comply with the obligations under the MEAs may be established.

This standard is intended for use by national competent authorities, regional and international organizations, manufacturers, importers, distributors of hazardous substances, mixtures, and, or products (or “articles”) containing hazardous substances, workers, consumers, and consumer organizations.

In formulating this standard considerable assistance was derived from the following publications which were still current when this standard was being developed:

a) International Labour Organization (ILO) Glossary of Terms for Chemical Safety;
b) United Kingdom, The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations;
c) United Kingdom, The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations ;
d) ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management Systems standard;
e) Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury; and
f) Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants.

1 Scope

This standard gives general terms, abbreviations and acronyms together with their internationally accepted definitions as used in reference to hazardous substances and products containing hazardous substances and as contained in the normative reference documents. It also gives specific terms, abbreviations and definitions related to four multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam, and, Stockholm Conventions).

This standard is limited to terminology for hazardous substances related to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) embodied in the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

NOTE This standard also includes terms which are related to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

United Nations

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal

Basel Convention Glossary of Terms

The Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Guide Glossary

United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of chemicals – 10th revised edition

3 General terminology, abbreviations, and definitions applicable to any or all of the MEAs

3.1
absorbed dose (in toxicology)
amount of a chemical absorbed into the body or into organs and tissues of interest

3.2
acceptable daily intake for man
ADI
amount of a substance, expressed on a body mass basis (mg/kg body mass), that can be ingested daily, over a lifetime, without appreciable risk to the health of the consumer based on all the known facts at the time when the assessment is carried out (see also 3.153 *Temporary acceptable daily intake*)

3.3
acceptable daily intake not specified
ADI without an explicit indication of the upper limit of intake

Note 1 to entry: An ADI may be assigned to substances of very low toxicity, especially those that are food constituents or that may be considered as foods or normal metabolites in man.

Note 2 to entry: This expression was adopted as a more suitable expression than “ADI not limited”, which was previously used. An additive having an “ADI not specified” must meet the criteria of good manufacturing practices. For example, it should have proved technological efficacy and be used at the minimum level of technological efficacy, it should not conceal inferior food quality or adulteration, and it should not create a nutritional imbalance.

Note 3 to entry: The above expression means that, based on available data (chemical, biochemical, and toxicological), the total daily intake of the substance arising from its use or uses at levels necessary to achieve the desired effect and from its acceptable background in food, does not represent a hazard to health. For this reason, and reasons stated in the individual evaluations, the establishment of an acceptable daily intake expressed in mg/kg body weight is not deemed necessary

3.4
no acceptable daily intake allocated
expression applied to substances for which the available information is not sufficient to establish their safety or when the specifications for identity and purity are not adequate

Note 1 to entry: The fact that an ADI for an additive was not established should not be interpreted as casting doubt on its safety nor should it be considered for its withdrawal from use

3.5
acceptable risk
probability of suffering disease or injury that will be tolerated by an individual, group or society

Note 1 to entry: Acceptability of risk depends on the scientific data, social, economic and political factors, and on the perceived benefits arising from a chemical or process.

3.6
accession
Act whereby a State and/or regional economic integration organization that has not signed the Convention expresses its consent to become a Party to the Convention after it enters into force and has the same legal effect as ratification, acceptance or approval

3.7
accumulation
successive additions of a substance to a target organism, or organ, or to part of the environment, resulting in an increasing quantity or concentration of the substance in the organism, organ, or environment

3.8
acute aquatic hazard
danger of a substance caused by its toxicity to an organism during short term aquatic exposure to that substance

3.9
acute aquatic toxicity
intrinsic property of a substance that makes it injurious to an aquatic organism in a short term aquatic exposure to that substance

3.10
acute toxicity
intrinsic property of a substance to cause serious adverse health effects (lethality) after a single or short-term oral, dermal or inhalation exposure to a substance or mixture

3.11
adoption
process of a country's incorporation of an international agreement into the domestic legal system, through signature, ratification or any other process required under national law

Note 1 to entry: Adoption by the international community of an international agreement is the formal act by which the form and content of a proposed treaty text are established.

Note 2 to entry: Adoption of decision, resolution, or recommendation is the formal act (e.g. strike of gavel) by which the form and content of a proposed decision, resolution or recommendation are approved by delegations.

3.12
adverse effect
abnormal, undesirable or harmful effect to an organism, indicated by some result such as mortality, altered food consumption, altered body and organ weights, altered enzyme levels or visible (pathological) change

Note 1 to entry: An effect may be classed as an adverse effect if it causes functional or anatomical damage, causes irreversible changes or increases the susceptibility of the organism to other chemical or biological stress.

Note 2 to entry: A non-adverse effect will usually be reversed when exposure to the chemical ceases.

3.13
aerosol
suspension of solid or liquid particles in a gas, including aerosol dispensers

Note 1 to entry: Aerosol dispensers are any non-refillable receptacles made of metal, glass or plastics and containing a gas compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure, with or without a liquid, paste or powder; and fitted with a release device allowing the contents to be ejected as solid or liquid particles in suspension in a gas, as a foam, paste or powder or in a liquid state or gaseous state.

Note 2 to entry: Aerosol particles are fine enough in size (0.001 to 100 micrometres) to remain dispersed for a period of the time.

3.14
air pollution
presence of substances in the atmosphere resulting either from human activity or natural processes, present in sufficient concentration, for a sufficient time and under circumstances such as to interfere with the comfort, health, or welfare of persons or the environment

3.15
alloy
metallic material, homogeneous to the naked eye, consisting of two or more elements so combined that they cannot be readily separated by mechanical means

Note 1 to entry: Alloys are considered to be mixtures for the purpose of classification under the GHS.

3.16
amendment
formal alteration of provisions of a treaty by its Parties

3.17
anthropogenic emissions
emissions resulting from human activities

3.18
best available technique
BAT
most effective and advanced technique, the environmental impacts of which are limited

3.19
best environmental practice
BEP
application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies

3.20
bioaccumulation
accumulation of chemicals in the tissue of organisms through any route, including respiration, ingestion, or direct contact and is measured through a bioaccumulation factor (BAF)

3.21
bioconcentration
process leading to a higher concentration of a chemical in the organism relative to its environment

3.22
bio-concentration factor
BCF
ratio of the concentration of a chemical in aquatic organisms at a specific time or during a discrete time period of exposure, to the concentration in the surrounding water at the same time or during the same period

3.23
carcinogen
chemical substance or a mixture of chemical substances which induce cancer or increase its incidence

3.24
chemical
substance whether by itself or in a mixture or preparation and whether manufactured or obtained from nature, but does not include any living organism

3.25
chemical identity
name that will uniquely identify a chemical. This can be a name that is in accordance with the nomenclature systems of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) or the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), or a technical name.

3.26
chronic aquatic toxicity
intrinsic property of a substance to cause adverse effect to an aquatic organism during aquatic exposures which are determined in relation to the life-cycle of the organism

3.27
chronic toxicity
intrinsic property of a substance to cause adverse health effects after prolonged or repeated oral, dermal or inhalation exposure to a substance or mixture

3.28
Conference of the Parties
COP
one of the designations for the main negotiating body under an international agreement

Note 1 to entry: The COP is a policy-making body that meets periodically to take stock of implementation of the agreement and adopt decisions, resolutions or recommendations for the future implementation of the Agreement.

3.29
consent to be bound
State or regional economic integration organization expresses its consent to be bound by the Convention, its amendments or protocols under international law by some formal act i.e. definitive signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

3.30
control measure
measure taken to reduce exposure to a substance hazardous to health (including the provision of systems of work and supervision, the cleaning of workplaces, premises, plant and equipment, the provision and use of engineering controls and personal protective equipment

3.31
conventions
formal multilateral treaties with a broad number of Parties, usually negotiated under the auspices of an international organization

Note 1 to entry: The term is synonymous with "treaty".

3.32
correction
correction of the Convention is the remedying of an error in its text.

Note 1 to entry: The depositary must communicate the proposed corrections to all Parties and Signatories. In the practice of the United Nations, the Secretary-General, as depositary, informs all States of the error and the proposal to correct it. If, on the expiry of a specified time limit, no Party or Signatory objects, the Secretary-General circulates a procès-verbal of rectification and causes the corrections to be effected in the authentic text(s) ab initio. States have ninety (90) days to object to a proposed correction. This period can be shortened if necessary.

3.33
corrosive
causing harm or damage to living tissue and/or other materials by chemical reaction

Note 1 to entry: Living tissue such as skin, eyeballs, respiratory tract may suffer harm in the presence of corrosive substances.

Note 2 to entry: Metals may suffer damage or complete destruction in the presence of corrosive substances.

3.34
criteria
technical definition for the physical, health and environmental hazards

Note 1 to entry: Criteria can be established in standards or regulations.

3.35
critical temperature
maximum temperature at which a gas can be converted into a liquid by an increase in pressure

3.36
declaration
statement recognizing, clarifying, or putting forward a Party's position with respect to a particular provision(s) of a Convention

Note 1 to entry: Unlike reservations, declarations merely clarify a Party's position and do not claim to exclude or modify the legal effect of the Convention.

3.37
depositary notification
C.N.
formal notice that the Depositary of the Convention sends to all Member States, non-member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and the relevant secretariats, organizations and UN offices, wherein the notification provides information on the Convention, including actions undertaken

3.38
EC_{50}
median effective concentration
the concentration of a substance that is effective in producing 50% of the maximal response

3.39
EC Number
ECN°
reference number used by the European Communities to identify dangerous substances, in particular those registered under EINECS

3.40
EINECS
European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances

3.41
elimination
complete removal of a substance together with all processes that lead to the production of that substance

3.42
emission
release of a substance (usually a gas) into the atmosphere

3.43
end of life
when a product is retired from the market and retirement can involve completely removing the product from the market without replacing it or, in many cases, replacing it with a new version

3.44
end point
the final stage of a process which may involve physical, health and environmental hazards

3.45
environmental impact assessment
EIA
process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated and alternatives are analyzed and is an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes

3.46
environmentally sound management
ESM
taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous substances, used and end of life products, and wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment

3.47
ErC50
EC_{50} in terms of reduction of growth rate
concentration of test substance which results in a 50 % reduction in growth rate (ErC50) relative to the control within 72 hrs exposure, expressed in mg/l and which is regarded as acute endpoint (see $L(E)C_{50}$ at 3.89)

Note 1 to entry: Under GHS, only algae ErC50 is used for acute aquatic hazard classification.

3.48
EU
The European Union

3.49
explosive article
article containing one or more explosive substances

3.50
explosive substance
solid or liquid substance or mixture of substances which is in itself capable by chemical reaction of producing gas at such a temperature and pressure and at such a speed as to cause damage to the surroundings

Note 1 to entry: Pyrotechnic substances are included as explosive substances even when they do not emit gases.

3.51
FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

3.52
flammable
substances:

a) where flash point is less than -6.7 ºC (20ºF);

b) with a flash point greater than -6.7 ºC (20ºF) but less than 37.8 °C (100 ºF) are labelled “flammable”; and

c) labelled “combustible” with a flashpoint of at least 37.8 ºC (100 ºF) and that can reach 65.6 ºC (150 ºF) when tested.

3.53
flash point
lowest temperature, corrected to a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa (1.013 bar), at which the application of an ignition source causes the vapours of a liquid to ignite under specified conditions

3.54
focal point
official or agency designated by a government to serve as the focus or channel of communication for a particular issue or agreement

3.55
gas
substance which is a formless fluid that completely occupies the space of an enclosure and (i) at 50 °C (122 °F) has a vapour pressure greater than 300 kPa (3 bar); or (ii) is completely gaseous at 20 °C (68 °F) at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa (1.013 bar)

3.56
Gas Carrier Code
GC Code
code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquified Gases in Bulk

3.57
GESAMP
Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection

Note 1 to entry: The GESAMP consists of members from organizations such as International Maritime, Organization (IMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations (UN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Seabed Authority (ISA).

3.58
hazard
intrinsic property of a substance that has the potential to cause harm to the health or safety of a person or the environment

3.59
hazard category
division of criteria within each hazard class

EXAMPLE Oral acute toxicity includes five hazard categories and flammable liquids includes four hazard categories.

Note 1 to entry: These categories compare hazard severity within a hazard class and should not be taken as a comparison of hazard categories more generally (GHS definition).

3.60
hazard class
the nature of the physical, health or environmental hazard

EXAMPLE Flammable solid carcinogen and oral acute toxicity**.**

3.61
hazard classification
establishment of the nature of the physical, health or environmental hazard, e.g., flammable solid carcinogen or oral acute toxicity

Note 1 to entry: Within the hazard classes, the degree of hazard is indicated with a category.

3.62
hazard label
written, printed or graphic informational elements concerning a hazardous substance, object or product, that are affixed to, printed on, or attached to the immediate container of a hazardous substance, object or product, or to the outside packaging

Note 1 to entry: The main communication tool for the classification of hazardous substances and mixtures. Together with the safety data sheet, the hazard label should be consistent in communicating any hazard information for a given substance or mixture to the user and the public.

3.63
hazard statement
statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazards of a hazardous product, including, where appropriate, the degree of hazard

3.64
hazardous substance
material which, because of an inherent property, can cause harm to health, safety or the environment either directly or indirectly

3.65
hazard symbol
graphical element designed to provide important, instantly recognizable information intended to notify a person of the presence of a type of hazard

3.66
health hazards
chemical, physical or biological factors in our environment that can have negative impacts on our short- or long-term health

3.67
health surveillance
assessment of the state of the public's health as related to exposure to substances hazardous to health, and includes biological monitoring

Note 1 to entry: Health surveillances can be specific to an organization, local for a specific place or national for the entire country.

Note 2 to entry: Biological monitoring involves the measurement of chemicals or their breakdown products in biological samples such as urine or blood.

3.68
IARC
International Agency for the Research on Cancer

3.69
IEC
International Electrotechnical Commission

3.70
IGC Code
International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Liquified Gases in Bulk, including applicable amendments to which the vessel has been certified

3.71
ILO
International Labour Organization

3.72
IMDG Code - International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code
an international code for the maritime transport of dangerous goods in packaged form

3.73
IMO
International Maritime Organization

3.74
import controls
restrictions that a nation puts on the goods that are brought within its borders, including regulations governing the preferential rules of origin, recycling of packaging materials, ingredients subject to import controls, and prohibited substances

Note 1 to entry: Import control is essentially to enforce health, environmental, security and safety, and technical standards that arise from domestic laws and international agreements.

3.75
IMSBC Code
International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code, as amended

3.76
initial boiling point
temperature of a liquid at which its vapour pressure is equal to the standard pressure (101.3 kPa) (1.013 bar), that is, the temperature at which the first gas bubble appears

3.77
international agreement
legally binding agreement between countries or international intergovernmental organizations

3.78
International Bulk Chemical Code
IBC Code
International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk

3.79
Internationally Recognized Standard Test method
method of qualitative and/or quantitative test for a substance, object or product that has been defined by an international standardization body such as International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), European Committee for Standardization (CEN), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) etc.

3.80
interpretative declaration
declaration by a Party as to its understanding of some matter covered by the Convention or its interpretation of a particular provision

3.81
IOMC
Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

3.82
IPCS
International Programme on Chemical Safety

3.83
irritant
substance that is not corrosive but which causes reversible inflammation or irritation to a body surface, including eyes, respiratory tract, skin or mucous membranes

3.84
ISO
International Organization for Standardization

3.85
IUPAC
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

3.86
label
appropriate group of written, printed or graphic information elements concerning a hazardous product, selected as relevant to the target sector(s), that is affixed to, printed on, or attached to the immediate container of a hazardous product, or to the outside packaging of a hazardous product

3.87
label element
one type of information that has been harmonized for use in a label, e.g., pictogram, signal word

3.88
LC_{50}
50% lethal concentration
concentration of a chemical in air or of a chemical in water which causes the death of 50% (one-half) of a group of test animals

3.89
LD_{50}
median lethal dose
50% lethal dose
amount of a chemical, given all at once, which causes the death of 50% (one half) of a group of test animals

Note 1 to entry: LD_{50} (median lethal dose) is a measure of the short-term poisoning potential (acute toxicity) of a substance.

3.90
L(E)C_{50}
either the concentration that causes the death of 50% of test subjects (LC_{50}) or the concentration that produces the planned/expected response in 50% of test subjects (EC_{50})

3.91
liquefied gas
gas which when packaged under pressure, is partially liquid at temperatures above -50°C (58 °F)

Note 1 to entry: A distinction is made between, the following:

i) High pressure liquefied gas: a gas with a critical temperature between -50°C (58 °F) and +65°C (149 °F); and
ii) Low pressure liquefied gas: a gas with a critical temperature above +65°C (149 °F).

3.92
liquid
substance or mixture which at 50°C (122 °F) has a vapour pressure of not more than 300 kPa (3 bar), which is not completely gaseous at 20 °C (68 °F) and at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa (1.013 bar), and which has a melting point or initial melting point of 20 °C (68 °F) or less at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa (1.013 bar)

Note 1 to entry: A viscous substance or mixture for which a specific melting point cannot be determined shall be subjected to the ASTM D 4359-90, Standard Test Method for Determining Whether a Material is a Liquid or a Solid; or to the test for determining fluidity (penetrometer test) prescribed in section 2.3.4 of Annex A of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).

3.93
lowest observed adverse effect level
LOAEL
the lowest amount or concentration of a substance that has been observed to cause harm in an exposed population

3.94
Manual of Tests and Criteria
latest revised editions of the United Nations publication bearing this title, and any published amendments thereto

3.94
manufacturer
individual or entity actually engaged in or principally responsible for, formulating, producing, processing, packaging, repackaging or preparing hazardous chemicals under a trade name controlled or used under license by that individual or organization

3.95
MARPOL
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

3.96
maximum exposure limit
maximum time, expressed as a time-weighted average approved by the Health Authorities within a State, during which a person may be exposed to a substance that is hazardous to health

Note 1 to entry: Long-term exposure limit: maximum exposure permitted over an 8 hour period.

Note 2 to entry: Short-term exposure limit: maximum exposure permitted over a 15 minute period.

3.97
maximum residue limit
MRL
maximum concentration (in mg/kg of food) of residue that is recommended by the Codex Alimentarius to be legally permitted or recognized as acceptable in or on a food

Note 1 to entry: It is based on the type and amount of a residue considered to be without toxicological hazard for human health, an amount described by the terms “acceptable daily intake” and “temporary acceptable daily intake”, the latter of which incorporates an additional safety factor and takes into account other relevant public health risks as well as food technology aspects.

3.98
median effective concentration
EC50
concentration of a substance in an environmental medium expected to produce a certain effect in 50% of test organisms in a given population under a defined set of conditions

Note 1 to entry: Under GHS, only algae ErC50 is used for acute aquatic hazard classification.

3.99
mist
liquid droplets of a substance or mixture suspended in a gas which is usually air

3.100
mixture
composition of two or more substances in which the separate components do not react chemically

3.101
mutagen
agent giving rise to an increased occurrence of mutations in populations of cells, organisms or both

3.102
mutation
permanent change in the amount or structure of the genetic material in a cell

3.103
national competent authority
national body(ies) or authority(ies) designated or otherwise recognized to perform specified functions in connection with any national law, international/regional agreement, or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Note 1 to entry: Under the Basel Convention, the term “Competent Authority” is used synonymously with “National Competent Authority”.

3.104
occupational exposure limit
limit set by the national competent authorities on the acceptable concentration of a hazardous substance in workplace air for a particular material or class of materials

3.105
OECD
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

3.106
NGO
non-governmental organization

3.107
non-party
State that has not ratified, acceded or otherwise become a Party to an international agreement

Note 1 to entry: As a non-party, a State may have limited rights to participate in negotiations or deliberations under the agreement, or to invoke provisions of the agreement.

3.108
no observed adverse effect level
NOAEL
greatest concentration or amount of a substance at which no detectable adverse effects occur in an exposed population

3.109
no observed effect concentration
NOEC
test concentration immediately below the lowest tested concentration with statistically significant adverse effects

Note 1 to entry: The NOEC has no statistically significant adverse effect compared to the control.

3.110 h
optional declaration
declaration that a treaty specifically provides for, but does not require

Note 1 to entry: Unlike an interpretative declaration, an optional declaration is binding on the State making it.

3.111
organic peroxide
liquid or solid organic substance which contains the bivalent -0-0- structure and may be considered a derivative of hydrogen peroxide, where one or both of the hydrogen atoms have been replaced by organic radicals.

Note 1 to entry: The term also includes organic peroxide formulations.

3.112
oxidizing gas
gas which may, generally by providing oxygen, cause or contribute to the combustion of other material more than air does

3.113
oxidizing liquid
liquid which, while in itself not necessarily combustible, may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause, or contribute to, the combustion of other material

3.114
oxidizing solid
solid which, while in itself not necessarily combustible, may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause, or contribute to, the combustion of other material

3.115
ozone-depleting potential
ODP
integrative quantity, distinct for each halocarbon source species, that represents the extent of ozone depletion in the stratosphere expected from the halocarbon on a mass-for-mass basis relative to CFC-11: the formal definition of ODP is the ratio of integrated perturbations to total ozone, for a differential mass emission of a particular compound relative to an equal emission of CFC-11

3.116
ozone-depleting substance
chemical element or compound that contributes to stratospheric ozone depletion

Note 1 to entry: Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) include but are not limited to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform. ODSs are generally very stable in the troposphere and only degrade under intense ultraviolet light in the stratosphere. When they break down, they release chlorine or bromine atoms, which then deplete ozone.

3.117
party
State or regional economic integration organization that has consented to be bound by any of the Conventions under the Scope of this standard and for which the Conventions are in force

3.118
persistence
capacity of a substance to remain chemically stable

3.119
personal protective equipment
PPE
equipment, including clothing, which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects that person against one or more risks to his health, and includes any addition or accessory designed to meet that objective

Note 1 to entry: There may be other applicable definitions in the CARICOM Member States based on current legislation.

3.120
pictogram
graphical composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern or colour that is intended to convey specific information

3.121
pollution
introduction of substances or energy into the environment, resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment

3.122
precautionary statement
phrase (and/or pictogram) that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous product, or improper storage or handling of a hazardous product

3.123
prior informed consent procedure
procedure that share information about hazardous substances and allows importing parties to make decisions about whether to receive shipments of these substances, and exporting parties to comply with those decisions

3.124
product identifier
name or number used for a hazardous product on a label or in the SDS that provides a unique means by which the product user can identify the substance or mixture within the particular use setting (e.g. transport, consumer or workplace)

3.125
prohibition
act of ensuring that certain substances objects, mixtures and products are not available for any intended use within a State or territory

3.126
protocol
official procedure or system that has the same legal characteristics as a treaty, generally, amending, supplementing or clarifying the treaty

Note 1 to entry: A protocol is normally open to participation by the Parties to the parent treaty.

3.127
pyrophoric liquid
liquid which, even in small quantities, is liable to ignite within five minutes after coming into contact with air

3.128
pyrophoric solid
solid which, even in small quantities, is liable to ignite within five minutes after coming into contact with air

3.129
pyrotechnic article
article containing one or more pyrotechnic substances

3.130
pyrotechnic substance
substance or mixture of substances designed to produce an effect by heat, light, sound, gas or smoke or a combination of these as the result of non-detonative, self-sustaining exothermic (heat-related) chemical reactions

3.131
ratification
acceptance
approval
consent of a State or regional economic integration organization, or both to become a Party and be bound by the Convention. Ratification, acceptance and approval all require two steps:

a) execution of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing the intent of the State to be bound by the Convention; and
b) deposit of the instrument with the depositary

3.132
readily combustible solid
powdered, granular, or pasty substance or mixture which is dangerous if it can be easily ignited by brief contact with an ignition source, such as a burning match, and if the flame spreads rapidly

3.133
receptacle
container together with any material, wrapping and component, including any closure or fastener, associated with the container which enables the container to perform its containment function

3.134
regional economic integration organization
organization constituted by Sovereign States of a given region to which its Member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention and which has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Convention

3.135
Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods
RID
regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail [Annex 1 to Appendix B (Uniform Rules concerning the Contract for International Carriage of Goods by Rail) (CIM) of COTIF (Convention concerning international carriage by rail)], as amended

3.136
reservation
statement made by a State or regional economic integration organization by which it declares the legal effect of certain provisions of a treaty are excluded or altered in their application to that State or organization

Note 1 to entry: No reservations or exceptions may be made to the Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata or Stockholm Conventions.

3.137
Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances
RoHS
Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive)

3.138
risk
likelihood of a negative result or outcome as a result of exposure to a hazardous substance, that has the potential for harm to the health of persons, animals, plants and the environment, as attained under the conditions of use and exposure and must include the potential extent of the harm

3.139
risk assessment
systematic method of identifying hazards, their likelihood and their consequences

3.140
safety data sheet
SDS
document that provides comprehensive information about the composition physical and chemical properties, health effects, and environmental impacts of a substance or mixture and also contains guidance on the safe handling, use, storage, and disposal of the product

Note 1 to entry: The term safety data sheet is used interchangeably with material safety data sheet (MSDS).

3.141
sensitizer

3.141.1
respiratory sensitizer
substance that will induce hypersensitivity of the airways following inhalation of the substance

3.141.2
skin or contact sensitizer
substance that will induce an allergic response following contact with the skin

3.142
signal word
word used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label

EXAMPLE The GHS uses “Danger" and “Warning" as signal words.

3.143
signature

3.143.1
definitive signature
signature not subject to ratification
where a State expresses its consent to be bound by signing the treaty without the need for ratification, acceptance or approval and a State may definitively sign a treaty only when the treaty so permits

3.143.2
simple signature
signature subject to ratification
applies to most multilateral treaties, where when a State signs the treaty and the signature is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval

Note 1 to entry: The State has not expressed its consent to be bound by the treaty until it ratifies, accepts or approves it.

Note 2 to entry: In the case where the signature is still to be ratified, accepted or approved, a State that signs a treaty is obliged to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the treaty.

Note 3 to entry: Signature alone does not impose on the State obligations under the Convention.

3.144
skin corrosion
production of irreversible damage to the skin following the application of a test substance for up to four (4) hours

3.145
skin irritation
production of reversible damage to the skin following the application of a test substance for up to four (4) hours

3.146
solid
substance or mixture which does not meet the definitions of a liquid or gas

3.147
substance
chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition

3.148
succession
adherence to the Convention of a new State where the predecessor State, whose territory has become the responsibility of the new State, was a party to the Convention

3.149
supplemental label element
additional non-harmonized type of information supplied on the container of a hazardous product that is not required or specified under the GHS

Note 1 to entry: In some cases, this information may be required by other national competent authorities or it may be additional information provided at the discretion of the manufacturer or distributor

3.150
supply
making a substance, object, or preparation available to another person and includes importation of the substance, object or preparation into any Sovereign State

3.151
symbol
graphical element intended to succinctly convey information

3.152
technical name
name that is generally used in commerce, regulations and codes to identify a substance or mixture, other than the IUPAC or CAS name, and that is recognized by the scientific community

EXAMPLE: Technical names include those used for complex mixtures (e.g., petroleum fractions or natural products), pesticides (e.g., ISO or ANSI systems), dyestuffs (Colour Index system) and minerals.

3.153
temporary acceptable daily intake
TADI
acceptable daily intake established for a specific, limited period to enable additional biochemical, toxicological or other data to be obtained as may be required for estimating an acceptable daily intake

Note 1 to entry: The TADI usually involves the use of a safety factor larger than that used in the estimation of an acceptable daily intake

3.154
toxic
ability of a substance when inhaled, consumed or absorbed through the skin to cause injury, illness or death by poisoning or corrosive action to the organism

3.155
toxicity
degree to which a substance is poisonous to an organism or part of an organism

3.156
toxic substance
harmful chemical(s) or mixture(s) that can cause injury or sickness when inhaled, consumed or absorbed through the skin

Note 1 to entry: Many toxic substances have previously caused illness, including birth defects and cancer.

3.157
treaty
instrument binding under international law, regardless of its formal designation, concluded between two or more international legal persons

Note 1 to entry: Treaties may be concluded between:
a) States;
b) International organizations with treaty-making capacity and States; or
c) International organizations with treaty-making capacity.

3.158
UNCED
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

3.159
UNCETDG/GHS
United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

3.160
UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

3.161
UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

3.162
UNITAR
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

3.163
UN Proper Shipping Name
standard technical name to describe the hazard properties and composition of dangerous goods

3.164
UNSCEGHS
United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

3.165
vapour
gaseous form of a substance or mixture released from its liquid or solid state

4 Specific terminology, abbreviations and definitions applicable to the Basel Convention

4.1
alternative use
use of a product or object (before or after refurbishment) for a purpose other than that for which it was conceived

4.2
ban amendment
amendment to the Basel Convention that provides for the prohibition of exports of all hazardous wastes covered by the Convention that are intended for final disposal, reuse, recycling and recovery from countries listed in annex VII to the Convention (Parties and other States, which are members of the OECD, EC, Liechtenstein) to all other countries

4.3
direct re-use
using again of a non-waste product, object, or substance for the purpose for which it was conceived without the need for repair or refurbishment

4.4
disposal
operation specified in Annex IV of the Basel Convention

Note 1 to entry: Annex IV of the Basel Convention includes two (2) types of operations, Final disposal operations are specified in Annex IV A and recovery operations are specified in Annex IV B.

4.5
final disposal
operation that does not lead to the possibility of resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses and includes depositing in or on land, release into water ways, incineration, physico-chemical treatment, permanent storage and so on, as outlined in Annex IV A of the Basel Convention

Note 1 to entry: Final disposal may be done in more than one stages, so the term includes interim/preparatory operations such as storage.

Note 2 to entry: Final disposal and recovery operations are to be performed in an environmentally sound manner.

Note 3 to entry: Final disposal operations are to be distinguished from recovery operations since recovery operations, unlike final disposal operations, make use of resources as they will obtain some useful benefit from the waste, either by bringing it back into productive use or recovering energy from it.

4.6
focal point
entity of a Party responsible for receiving and submitting information to other Parties as provided in articles 13 and 16 of the Basel Convention

4.7
hazard characteristic
property of a physical or chemical substance or mixture that can cause damage, harm or adverse effects to health or the environment

4.8
hazardous waste
waste or combination of wastes with the potential to cause harm to human health, living organisms or the environment

Note 1 to entry: Hazardous wastes usually require special handling and disposal procedures which are regulated by national and international laws.

Note 2 to entry: For the purposes of the Convention, hazardous wastes include:

a) Wastes that are to be controlled, unless they do not possess any of the characteristics considered to be hazardous under the Convention; and
b) Wastes that are not covered under paragraph (a) but are defined as, or are considered to be, hazardous wastes by the domestic legislation of the Party of export, import or transit.

4.9
mercury waste
metallic mercury which is disposed of or is intended to be disposed of or is required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law

4.10
non-waste
substance or object that does not meet the definition of “waste”

4.11
notification document
written notification / declaration by the generator or exporter from a State of export sent through the channel of the competent authority of the State of export, to the competent authority of the States concerned of any proposed transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes as specified in Annex V A and Article 6

4.12
reclamation
process of rehabilitating a waste product or substance that makes it suitable to be returned to its originally intended use

4.13
recovery
operation that may lead to resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative use and includes use as a fuel, recycling, recovery of components, and so on, as outlined in Annex IV B of the Basel Convention and include:

a) process of obtaining materials or energy resources from waste; and
b) waste handling operations and relevant preparatory operations for waste handling operations by which waste or substances or materials contained therein are brought into use in the manufacturing of goods, performance of work or production of energy

Note 1 to entry: Recovery is commonly used to refer to operations specified in Annex IV B to the Basel Convention, although only two operations listed in Annex IV B refer explicitly to “recovery”. In addition, national legislation in some countries may use the term “recycling” to refer to the operations listed in Annex IV B.

Note 2 to entry: Recovery may be done in more than one stage, so it includes interim operations.

Note 3 to entry: Recovery and final disposal operations should be performed in an environmentally sound manner.

Note 4 to entry: The term “recovery” does not include the actual reuse or direct reuse.

Note 5 to entry: In some countries, national legislation has recognized that where repair is necessary to prepare a waste for reuse, it is regarded as a recovery operation.

4.14
recycling

a) process or processes of converting waste materials into new materials and objects;

b) series of activities, including collection, separation, and processing, by which products or other materials are recovered from the solid waste stream for use in the form of raw materials in the manufacture of new products, other than fuel for producing heat or power by combustion; and

c) Relevant operations specified in Annex IV B to the Basel Convention

Note 1 to entry: Recycling is to be distinguished from operations that recover energy from the waste.

4.15
refurbishment
modification of an object that is a waste or a product to increase or restore its performance or functionality or both, or to meet applicable technical standards or regulatory requirements, with the result of making the waste or product a fully functional product to be used for a purpose that is at least the one that was originally intended

Note 1 to entry: Refurbishment is an operation that can be applied to both waste and non-waste.

4.16
repair
fixing a specified fault in an object that is a waste or a product or replacing defective components or both, in order to make the waste or product a fully functional product to be used for its originally intended purpose

Note 1 to entry: Repair is an operation that can be applied to both waste and non- waste. Although repair is not listed as an operation in Annex IV, national legislation in some countries has recognized repair as a recovery operation where it is ensured that waste is made suitable for reuse.

4.17
reuse
using again of a product, object or substance that is not waste for the same purpose for which it was conceived, possibly after repair or refurbishment

Note 1 to entry: Reuse refers to the point at which the substance or object is being used for the purpose for which it was conceived, and does not refer to any operations to enable that to occur. Once a used substance or object is being reused, it is not waste.

Note 2 to entry: Reuse of a substance or object is limited to the same purpose for which it was conceived. There may be alternative uses, for a purpose other than for which it was conceived, that are beneficial because they promote resource efficiency.

Note 3 to entry: Reuse can apply to used substances or objects that are transferred for purposes of charity and without any monetary rewards or benefits, or for barter. Where a used substance or object is to be reused, in particular if it is exported for reuse, including for charitable donation, there needs to be sufficient certainty that it will actually be reused, because if it is not, its disposal may pose a threat to human health and the environment.

4.18
State of transit
State, other than the State of export or import, through which movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes is planned or takes place

4.19
transboundary movement of waste
movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes from an area under the national jurisdiction of one State to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another State or to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State, provided at least two States are involved in the movement

4.20
wastes
substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law

Note 1 to entry: A substance or object undergoing any of the operations listed in Annex IV of the Basel Convention is considered as waste:

a) Substances or objects that are disposed of:

Some operations listed in Annex IV may apply to both waste and non-waste substances and objects. It is therefore necessary to take the full circumstances of the operation into consideration.

b) Substances or objects intended to be disposed of:

i. A substance is a waste from the point that it is intended to be disposed of. However, the intent to dispose can be inferred from surrounding facts and circumstances and is not considered to be only the subjective intention of the generator or exporter/transporter of the waste.
ii. When assessing whether a substance is intended to be disposed of, all the facts and circumstances must be taken into account on a case by case basis.

c) Since a product may be intentionally produced or may result from a process, a product may be considered as a waste if the waste definition is applicable

d) Production residues may be considered as waste in one country and non-waste in another based on meeting the requirements established in national legislation.

e) A good may be a waste if the waste definition applies. A good is a substance or object that has economic value and which is capable, as such, of forming the subject of commercial transactions. “Good” is a wider term than “product”. A used good is one that is or has been used, either by its first or subsequent owner. A used good may or may not be a waste (see explanation under (i) above). “Use” means the utilization of a good, except in a recovery operation, whether by its first or a subsequent owner.

Note 2 to entry: For some recovery operations, there may be a question of when waste may cease to be waste and reaches end of waste status. The Convention does not clarify when a waste ceases to be waste. Some countries have set stringent criteria in their national legislation for waste to gain an end- of-waste status in order to ensure that there is sufficient certainty of use and that the products, materials or substances are not subjected to a disposal operation.

Note 3 to entry: Wastes destined for recovery operations might have economic value and are capable, as such, of forming the subject of commercial transactions. Economic value by itself is not an appropriate criterion to distinguish waste from non-waste. Waste can be substances or objects which may or may not have a positive economic value. If a substance or object’s value is significantly lower than that of new or used goods, this might give an indication that it is waste. If a substance or object has no value, this might give an indication that its owner wants to get rid of it and that it is therefore waste.

5 Specific terminology, abbreviations, and definitions related to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

5.1
artisanal and small-scale gold mining
gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production and in which rudimentary methods are used to extract and process minerals and metals

Note 1 to entry: Artisanal miners frequently use toxic materials in their attempts to recover metals and gems.

5.2
atmospheric mercury depletion event
decrease in mercury in the atmosphere close to the surface during polar springtime

Note 1 to entry: Such depletions of mercury occur together with depletions of ozone.

5.2.1
best available techniques
those techniques that are the most effective to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and releases of mercury to air, water and land and the impact of such emissions and releases on the environment as a whole, taking into account economic and technical considerations for a given Party or a given facility within the territory of that Party

5.2.2
best
most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole

5.2.3
available techniques
in respect of a Sovereign State and a specific facility within the territory of that State, those techniques developed on a scale that allows implementation in a relevant industrial sector under economically and technically viable conditions, taking into consideration the costs and benefits, whether or not those techniques are used or developed within the territory of that State, provided that they are accessible to the operator of the facility as determined by that State

5.2.4
techniques
technologies used, operational practices, and the ways in which installations are designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned

5.3
bioaccumulation
accumulation of substances such as pesticides or other organic chemicals in an organism

Note 1 to entry: Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a toxic substance at a rate greater than that at which the substance is lost.

5.4
bioaccumulation factor
number that describes bioaccumulation as the ratio of the concentration of a chemical inside an organism to the concentration in the surrounding environment

5.5
conversion
chemical transformation of the physical state of mercury from a liquid state to mercury sulfide or a comparable chemical compound that is equally or more stable and equally or less soluble in water and that presents no greater environmental or health hazard than mercury sulfide

5.6
divalent mercury (also expressed as Hg2+ or Hg(II))
most stable and common of the ionized forms of mercury in the environment

Note 1 to entry: In the atmosphere, mercury species containing divalent mercury are more easily washed out of the air by precipitation and deposited than is elemental mercury.

5.7
elemental mercury (also expressed as Hg^0 or Hg(0))
chemical element with the symbol Hg

Note 1 to entry: A heavy, silvery metal, mercury is one of five metallic chemical elements that are liquid at or near room temperature and pressure. Mercury is the only metal that is liquid under standard conditions for temperature and pressure.

5.8
emission
discharge of mercury or mercury compounds to the atmosphere

5.9
emission limit value
limit on the concentration, mass or emission rate of mercury or mercury compounds often expressed as “total mercury” emitted from a point source

5.10
environmentally sound management
management of hazardous wastes or other wastes in such a way as to take all practicable steps to ensure that such wastes are managed in a manner that protects human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes

5.11
export
the permanent or temporary transfer from one State to another, of mercury, mercury compounds, mixtures of mercury and mercury-added products which either originate in, or are freely available in that State; or the re-export of mercury, mercury compounds, mixtures of mercury and mercury-added products that neither originate in nor are freely available within a State but which are placed under a customs procedure for the movement of goods through the customs territory of the State

5.12
extended producer responsibility
environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle

5.13
Global Mercury Project
initiative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, that was launched in 2002, that brings together Governments, non-governmental organizations, representatives of industry and community stakeholders in an effort to build the capacity required to monitor mercury use and pollution in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and capacity to develop policies and institutions capable of removing barriers to the adoption of cleaner technologies for mineral extraction

5.14
import
The physical introduction, into the customs territory of a State, of mercury, mercury compounds, mixtures of mercury and mercury-added products that are placed under a customs procedure for the movement of goods through the customs territory of that State

5.15
indirect exposures model – version 2 for mercury (IEM-2M)
aquatic and terrestrial fate, transport and exposure model used to predict environmental mercury concentrations based on air concentrations and deposition rates to watershed soils and lakes

Note 1 to entry: IEM-2M simulates the fate of elemental, divalent and methylmercury using mass balance equations. Mass balances are performed for each mercury species, with internal transformation rates linking the three species. Sources include wetfall and dryfall loadings and diffusion of atmospheric mercury vapour to watershed soils and the water body. Sinks include leaching from watershed soils, burial from lake sediments, volatilization from the soil and water column and advection out of lakes. Methylmercury concentrations in fish are estimated from water concentrations based on bioaccumulation factors.

5.16
lifetime
time during which the first-order processes or totality of the first-order processes of scavenging result in mercury species mass reduction in a given amount of time in a geophysical reservoir, in atmospheric physio-chemistry; or the time span beginning when a product is put into use, usually the time of purchase and ending when the product can no longer be used or is discarded (in descriptions of life cycles of products)

Note 1 to entry: For a reservoir with homogeneous mercury species distribution the lifetime is equal to the ratio of the mass contained in the reservoir to the scavenging rate. Since the mass of mercury in the reservoir left to be reacted or removed decreases over time, the amount reacted or removed per unit of time decreases in a natural logarithmic fashion. For example, a lifetime of mercury of one year does not mean that all the mercury in a sample would be gone in one year if emissions were zero; it means that the rate of removal at the start of the time period in terms of mass per unit of time, if it did not change, would result in the removal of all the mercury in one year; since the rate of removal decreases as the mass of mercury decreases, however, the amount of mercury left after one year is equal to 1/e times the initial mass, where *e* equals 2.71828183.

5.17
maximum tolerated dose
high dose used in chronic toxicity testing that is expected, on the basis of an adequate subchronic study, to produce limited toxicity when administered for the duration of the test period and not induce overt toxicity

EXAMPLE Appreciable deaths of cells or organ dysfunction; toxic manifestations that are predicted materially to reduce the life span of animals being tested except as a result of neoplastic development; or 10 % or greater retardation of body weight gain as compared with control animals. In some studies, toxicity that could interfere with a carcinogenic effect is specifically excluded from consideration.

5.18
meals per season
number of meals consumed during a season, usually by fish, used to estimate consumption of mercury and where the number of meals per week in a season is also considered

5.19
methylmercury
MethylHg
MeHg
organometallic substance in which mercury is bound to a single methyl group

5.20
mercury
elemental mercury (Hg), CAS No. 7439-97-6

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of control of mercury supply sources and trade, mercury include mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 % by weight.

5.21
mercury-added product
product or product component that contains mercury or a mercury compound that was intentionally added

5.22
mercury compound
substance consisting of atoms of mercury and one or more atoms of other chemical elements that can be separated into different components only by chemical reactions

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of control of mercury supply sources and trade, mercury compounds mean mercury (I) chloride (known also as calomel), mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate, cinnabar and mercury sulphide.

5.23
mercury waste
metallic mercury which is disposed of or intended to be disposed of or is required to be disposed of by the provisions of national legislation

5.24
micrograms per kilogram of body weight
µg/kg body weight
unit of measurement used to describe an amount, often referred to as “intakes” or “doses”, of mercury, such as intakes that are considered safe for humans.

Note 1 to entry: In some cases it is used to express daily intake (µg/kg body weight/day) and in other cases weekly intake (µg/kg body weight/week)

5.25
national focal point
entity designated by a Party for the exchange of information under the Minamata Convention

5.26
natural emission
mercury input to the atmosphere that is not the result of current or previous human activity

Note 1 to entry: Natural emissions are commonly limited to mercury from purely natural sources (e.g., volcanoes, evasions from mercury-enriched soils) and re-emission of previously deposited mercury.

5.27
particulate mercury
Hgp
mercury bound in, or adsorbed on, particulate material

Note 1 to entry: In the atmosphere, particulate mercury is deposited much faster than elemental mercury.

5.28
placing on the market
supplying or making available, whether in return for payment or free of charge, to a third party

Note 1 to entry: Imports are considered placing on the market.

5.29
pre-industrial state
state of the natural mercury cycle before the beginning of human industrial activity

5.30
primary mercury mining
mining in which the principal material sought is mercury

5.31
provisional tolerable weekly intake
level of permissible human weekly exposure to those contaminants unavoidably associated with the consumption of otherwise wholesome and nutritious foods and is an endpoint used for food contaminants such as heavy metals with cumulative properties

5.32
release
discharge of mercury or mercury compounds to land or water

5.33
re-emission
secondary input of mercury to the atmosphere from geochemical reservoirs (soil, seawater, freshwater) where mercury has been accumulating as a result of previous or current human activity

5.34
reference dose
term used in the evaluation of the risk of toxic effects of chemicals (such as methylmercury) on humans; the reference dose is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime

5.35
reference exposure level
concentration at or below which no adverse health effects are anticipated for a specified period of exposure to a specified substance

5.36
techniques
technologies used, operational practices and the ways in which installations are designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned

5.37
use allowed
any use by a Party of mercury or mercury compounds consistent with the Minamata Convention, including, but not limited to, uses consistent with Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

6 Specific terminology related to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

6.1
banned chemical
chemical all uses of which within one or more categories have been prohibited by final regulatory action, in order to protect human health or the environment

Note 1 to entry: It includes a chemical that has been refused approval for first time use or has been withdrawn by industry either from the domestic market or from further consideration in the domestic approval process and where there is clear evidence that such action has been taken in order to protect human health or the environment.

6.2
chemical review committee
subsidiary body referred to in paragraph 6 of Article 18 of the Rotterdam Convention

Note 1 to entry: The Chemical Review Committee (CRC) is a subsidiary body of the Rotterdam Convention established to review chemicals and pesticide formulations according to the criteria set out by the Convention in Annexes II and IV respectively and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for listing such chemicals in Annex III.

6.3
designated national authority
one or more national authorities designated by a Party authorized to act on its behalf in the performance of the administrative functions required by the Rotterdam Convention

6.4
export and import
in their respective connotations, the movement of a chemical from one Party to another Party, but exclude mere transit operations

6.5
final regulatory action
action taken by a Party, that does not require subsequent regulatory action by that Party, the purpose of which is to ban or severely restrict a chemical

6.6
import response
decision provided by Parties indicating whether or not they will consent to the import of the chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and subject to the prior informed consent procedure

6.7
official contact point
entity designated by a Party to be responsible for receipt and transmission of official information with the Rotterdam Convention

6.8
prior informed consent procedure
mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing parties as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of those chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and for ensuring compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties

6.9
severely hazardous pesticide formulation
chemical formulated for pesticidal use that produces severe health or environmental effects observable within a short period of time after single or multiple exposure, under conditions of use

6.10
severely restricted chemical
chemical virtually all use of which within one or more categories has been prohibited by final regulatory action in order to protect human health or the environment, but for which certain specific uses remain allowed

Note 1 to entry: It includes a chemical that has, for virtually all use, been refused for approval or been withdrawn by industry either from the domestic market or from further consideration in the domestic approval process, and where there is clear evidence that such action has been taken in order to protect human health or the environment.

7 Specific terminology related to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

7.1
absorbable organic halides
AOX
varied collection of organic compounds to which one or more chlorine atoms have become attached

Note 1 to entry: The amount of AOX generated is a standard measurement that quantifies the amount of chlorinated organic material that is released.

7.2
acceptable purpose
to enable Parties to the Convention to take measures to reduce or eliminate releases of POPs from international production and use, for which alternatives do not exist yet or are not readily available, the Convention allows Parties to register specific exemptions for a specific period of time, as well as to register for acceptable purposes

7.3
biomagnification
ecological magnification
sequence of processes in an ecosystem by which higher concentrations are attained in organisms of higher trophic levels, i.e., of higher levels in the food chain

7.4
chemical identity
name that will uniquely identify a chemical

Note 1 to entry: This can be a name that is in accordance with the nomenclature systems of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) or the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), or a technical name.

7.5
closed-system site-limited intermediate
substance that is manufactured for, and consumed in or used for chemical processing in order to be transformed into another substance ('synthesis') and where the manufacture of the intermediate and the synthesis of one or more other substances from that intermediate take place on the same site, by one or more legal entities, under strictly controlled conditions in that it is rigorously contained by technical means during its whole life cycle

7.6
exemption
exclusion from the scope of a Convention

Note 1 to entry: Parties register specific exemptions for a specific period of time. Annexes A and B to the Convention describe specific exemptions, as well as acceptable purposes, that are available with respect to the relevant POPs.

Note 2 to entry: All registrations of specific exemptions shall expire five years after the date of entry into force of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical, which may be extended for a period of up to five years pursuant to a decision by the Conference of the Parties.

7.7
implementation plan
plan developed by each Party to the Convention for the implementation of that Party's obligations under the convention.

Note 1 to entry: The plan needs to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for that Party

7.8
national focal point
national entity or authority designated by a State Party and charged with facilitating at the national level, the State Party's compliance with the Stockholm Convention

7.9
non-compliance
failure of a Party to act in accordance with the requirements of the Convention

7.10
official contact point
OCP
authority designated by a Party to be responsible for the performance of administrative functions and all formal communications under the Convention

7.11
persistent organic pollutants
POPs
set of toxic man-made organic chemicals that are resistant to environmental degradation so that once released, they persist in the environment for many years

Note 1 to entry: POPs are/were intentionally produced for use in agriculture, disease control, manufacturing, or industrial processes or unintentionally produced in some industrial processes or by combustion of waste.

Note 2 to entry: POPs include the original list of chemical compounds published by the Stockholm Convention as well as those added subsequently. The current list of POPs and their uses/sources are shown in Annex 1.

7.12
release
intentional or unintentional discharge of POPs to the environment

7.13
stockpile
substances, mixtures or articles accumulated by the holder that consist of or contain any substance listed in Annex I of this Convention

7.14
unintentionally produced POPs
UPOPs
unintentional persistent organic pollutants (UPOPs) are POPs that are emitted during incomplete combustion processes involving organic matter and chlorine or are created as by-products of the manufacture of other chemicals and therefore have dangerous effects on the environment and human health

7.15
unintentional trace contaminant
level of a substance that is incidentally present in a minimal amount, below which the substance cannot be meaningfully used, and above the detection limit of existing detection methods to enable control and enforcement

Annex A
(Informative)
List of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

Table A.1 contains the listing of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as published by the Stockholm Convention.

Table A.1 – List of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as at 2024.

Original list of POPs (2004)		Added (2009)		Added after 2009	
Chemical	**Use/Source**	**Chemical**	**Use/Source**	**Chemical**	**Use/Source**
Aldrin	Pesticide	Alpha-hexa-chlorocyclo-hexane(HCH)	Pesticide	Hexabromocy-clododecane	Industrial
Chlordane	Pesticide	Commercial pentabromodi-phenyl ether	Industrial	Pentachloro-phenol	Pesticide
Dieldrin	Pesticide	Beta-hexachlo-rocyclohexane	Pesticide	Technical endosulfan	Pesticide
Endrin	Pesticide	Commercial octabromodi-phenyl ether	Industrial	Decabromodi-phenyl ether (decaBDE)	Industrial
Heptachlor	Pesticide	Chlordecone	Pesticide	Short-chain chlorinated par-affins	Industrial
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	Pesticide, Industrial, Combustion	Perfluorooc-tanesulfonic acid and perfluorooc-tanesulfonyl fluoride	Industrial	Hexachlorobu-tadiene	Industrial
Mirex	Pesticide	Lindane	Pesticide	A Polychlorin-ated naphtha-lene (PCN)	Industrial, Combustion
Toxaphene	Pesticide	Hexabromo-biphenyl	Industrial	Short-chain chlorinated par-affins	
Polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs)	Industrial, Combustion	Pentachloro-benzene	Pesticide, In-dustrial	Hexachlorobu-tadiene	
Dichlorodiphenyltri-chloroethane (DDT)	Pesticide			Methoxychlor	Insecticide
Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs)	Industrial, Combustion				
Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs)	Industrial. Combustion				
Note The latest listing of POPs can viewed via the Stockholm Convention's website or by following the link: https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/ThePOPs/AllPOPs/tabid/2509/Default.aspx					

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The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) was created as an Inter-Governmental Organisation by the signing of an agreement among fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CROSQ is the regional centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production of goods and services, through the process of standardization and the verification of quality. It is the successor to the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council (CCMSC) and supports the CARICOM mandate in the expansion of intra-regional and extra-regional trade in goods and services.

CROSQ is mandated to represent the interest of the region in international and hemispheric standards work, to promote the harmonization of metrology systems and standards, and to increase the pace of development of regional standards for the sustainable production of goods and services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and the enhancement of social and economic development.

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