



Review Statement for  
the OSPAR Background Document on  
2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenol



### **OSPAR Convention**

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention") was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. It has been ratified by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and approved by the European Community and Spain.

### **Convention OSPAR**

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. La Convention a été ratifiée par l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, la Finlande, la France, l'Irlande, l'Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, la Suède et la Suisse et approuvée par la Communauté européenne et l'Espagne.

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## 1. Introduction

OSPAR Background Documents are periodically reviewed and revised as necessary to take account of the latest information so that any additional risks to the marine environment can be highlighted, and additional measures and controls can be acknowledged.

In cases where a revision was not advised, a Review Statement supplementing the Background Document is prepared by lead countries, highlighting new developments since the adoption of the Background Document. This Review Statement will be updated, as appropriate, with information on progress on actions agreed in Background Documents.

The OSPAR Background Document on 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol was published in 2003 and updated in 2004 (monitoring strategy added) and 2006 (exchange of information on 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol in resins (OSPAR Publication number 274/2006)). Following a review by the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Committee in 2009, this Review Statement, prepared by the United Kingdom who is the lead country for this chemical, was adopted. The analysis provided below considers the key actions and uncertainties highlighted in the Background Document and the extent that these have been addressed.

## 2. PBT Properties

The Background Document indicates that the data referring to whether 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol (2,4,6 TTBP) is toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative, are limited and needs further validation.

*Action:* No further validation has taken place.

## 3. Risk to the Marine Environment

The Background Document points out that since this substance may not be manufactured and used in sufficient quantities to be likely to pose a significant concern to the open sea and is only likely to cause very local problems if indeed discharges do occur, the risk for the marine environment is considered low.

*Observation:* No significant information has become available to change this view. The United Kingdom one-off survey indicates that it is either not detected, or present at low concentrations in industrialised estuaries in sediments where it is most likely to be found.

## 4. Application of BAT at plants where 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol is being used as an intermediate

Contracting Parties were asked to report confirmation that the operations of plants where 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol is being used as an intermediate are controlled according to the best available techniques.

*Observation:* No substantial information on the control of plants where 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol is being used as an intermediate has been provided by Contracting Parties. Finland reported that one plant applying BAT has imported 2,4,6 TTBP in 2004 and 2005 (less than 10t per year) for use as a fuel additive. Norway reported that less than 1t of 2,4,6 TTBP were registered in 2004 and 2005 in the Norwegian Product Register for use as fuel or lubricant additive. The United Kingdom reported one

company in its territory manufacturing 2,4,6 TTBP. However, there is no information on the control of plants or application of BAT.

## 5. Provision of further data to clarify the use pattern of 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol from industry

Industry was tasked with providing further data to clarify the use pattern of 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol, particularly with respect to lubricants, but also with respect to the other indicated uses.

*Observation:* No information was provided by industry.

## 6. Development of a Monitoring Strategy

The Background Document requires the lead country United Kingdom to develop and propose an appropriate monitoring strategy for 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol.

*Action:* UK has developed a monitoring strategy and as part of this has carried out a one-off survey on 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol in sediments in industrial estuaries around the UK coast. A number of samples were below the detection limit, but there were also several positives ranging from 0.01 to 0.09 ug/g of dry sediment.

## 7. Provision of data to complete the risk assessment

The Background Document asks industry to provide the data needed to allow a completion of the risk assessment.

*Action.* No information was received from industry, but UK has recently been in touch with Environment Canada who are carrying out a risk assessment of 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylphenol. It is hoped that this may provide more recent data on uses and exposure which will help the completion of the assessment in the OSPAR Background Document.



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**OSPAR's vision is of a healthy and diverse North-East Atlantic ecosystem,  
used sustainably**

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