

POPs consultation 2026 - Glossary of POPs substances and other acronyms

Glossary of POPs acronyms	
Term	Meaning
DecaBDE	Decabromodiphenyl ether – a PBDE already regulated as a POP
Dechlorane Plus (DP)	Polychlorinated flame retardant (includes syn- and anti-isomers); newly listed POP
HeptaBDE	Heptabromodiphenyl ether – a PBDE already regulated as a POP
HexaBDE	Hexabromodiphenyl ether – a PBDE already regulated as a POP
LC-PFCAs	Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (C9–C21), including their salts and related compounds. Newly listed POPs
MCCPs	Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (C14–C17 chloroalkanes with ≥45% chlorine by weight). Newly listed POP
PBDEs	Polybrominated diphenyl ethers – flame retardants (collective definition referring to: tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE, heptaBDE, decaBDE)
PentaBDE	Pentabromodiphenyl ether – a PBDE already regulated as a POP
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – a broad class of fluorinated chemicals including some POPs
PFHxS	Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, its salts and related compounds – already regulated as a POP
PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic acid – already regulated as a POP
PFOS	Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and related compounds – already regulated as a POP with amended thresholds
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants – persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic chemicals capable of long-range environmental transport
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene – a fluoropolymer in which LC-PFCA residues may occur; subject to specific UTC limits
TetraBDE	Tetrabromodiphenyl ether – a PBDE already regulated as a POP
UVCB	Substance of Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or Biological materials – applies to MCCPs
UV-328	Benzotriazole UV absorber used in plastics, coatings and adhesives; newly listed POP
UTC	Unintentional Trace Contaminant limit – maximum allowable concentration of a POP when present unintentionally

Glossary of other acronyms

Term	Meaning
AL (Authorisation List)	The UK REACH list of substances requiring authorisation for use
CEN	European Committee for Standardisation
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
COP	Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
EA	Environment Agency (England)
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EIP	Environment Improvement Plan
EU	European Union
FSA	Food Standards Agency (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)
GB	Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales)
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IVD and IVDD	In-vitro diagnostic devices
LCD	Liquid crystal display
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram (parts per million)
MRL	Maximum Residue Level (for pesticides)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (also appears above)
PIC	Prior Informed Consent (hazardous chemicals export control regime)
POPRC	POPs Review Committee under the Stockholm Convention

REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (UK or EU context)
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SI	Statutory Instrument
UKG	United Kingdom Government
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency
µg/m²	Micrograms per square metre