

What are PCBs?

They are a class of man-made chlorinated organic chemicals that can occur in industrial coolants and in electrical equipment.

PCBs pose a risk to health and the environment and have therefore been listed by the Stockholm Convention as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)



Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB)



Where to find them?

PCBs can be found in electrical equipment

- Transformers
- Capacitors
- Fluorescent lighting ballasts



Why are they dangerous?

Because they have the following characteristics:

- Persistent in the environment
- Bioaccumulative
- Can travel long distances
- Toxic to humans and wildlife



Furthermore, there are health effects that PCBs have been linked to:

- PCBs are carcinogenic
- They can suppress the immune system, which may increase the risk of developing diseases