

Statement on the Restriction of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)

On 7 February 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a proposal to regulate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The aim of this proposal is a far-reaching restriction and, after the expiry of time-limited exemptions for certain applications, a complete ban of this group of at least 10,000 chemicals.^{1 2} The publication of the restriction proposal marks the starting point of a political process that will lead to a decision on how the European Union will address PFAS.

Awareness of the persistence of PFAS and their subsequent accumulation in the environment has triggered socio-political and regulatory debates not only within the EU. In various countries and regions, legislative initiatives are being prepared with the aim of preventing further accumulation in the ecosystem and in organisms, as well as contributing to the reduction of existing burdens.

— **1** ECHA - Annex XV Restriction Report:

<https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/f605d4b5-7c17-7414-8823-b49b9fd43aea>

2 Definition of PFAS according to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA): all substances containing at least one fully fluorinated methyl group (-CF₃) or methylene group (-CF₂-), with some specific exceptions.

(Source: Statement of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) on the ECHA PFAS restriction proposal, September 2023)

The discussions and restrictions surrounding PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a central part of the broader debate on environmental protection and health and safety. PFAS are widely used chemicals, and due to their persistence and potential risks to the environment and human health, their use is increasingly subject to regulation. These measures are part of a global effort to reconsider the use of such substances and to promote safer alternatives.

At present, the situation regarding PFAS is not yet fully resolved, and for many areas of application, appropriate alternatives are not yet available. Manufacturers are working intensively on developing sustainable solutions. As an environmentally conscious and climate-friendly company, we are following this issue closely and with great interest.

— As a non-manufacturing distributor, we take our responsibility seriously to ensure that the products we supply always comply with applicable legal requirements. We maintain open and transparent communication with our suppliers to obtain all relevant information regarding the composition and properties of the products. This information is carefully passed on to our customers.

Since many manufacturers are still in the early stages of analyzing their products with respect to PFAS, it is currently not possible to make precise statements about which products are affected and to what extent. We therefore remain in close contact with our suppliers and manufacturers and closely monitor developments in this area in order to always provide our customers with the most up-to-date and relevant information.

Please note that RTS electronic GmbH does not assume any guarantee or legal liability regarding the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of the information provided. Furthermore, due to the increasing number of inquiries, we are unable to complete questionnaires.

Thank you for your trust and continued cooperation.

RTS electronic GmbH
Waltrop, September 2025