

PFAS – What You Need to Know

What are PFAS?

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) is a collective term for around 10,000 chemical substances containing strong carbon-fluorine bonds. These bonds give the substances excellent chemical and thermal properties, but also make them nearly non-degradable. As a result, PFAS persist in the environment and can be harmful to humans, animals, and nature.

Where are PFAS found?

PFAS are used in a wide range of products, such as lubricants, coatings (e.g., Teflon®), sealing rings, and technical plastics (e.g., FKM/Viton®). Even if your raw materials do not contain fluorine, components in machinery or tools may still contain PFAS. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) can help determine whether a product contains PFAS. The RIVM provides a convenient [PFAS-check tool](#) for this purpose.

Regulatory Developments

Europe

In 2023, five countries, including the Netherlands, submitted a proposal to ECHA to ban all non-essential PFAS. The goal is to include approximately 10,000 substances under REACH regulations.

- The European committees RAC and SEAC will continue assessments until the end of 2025.
- A final proposal is expected at the beginning of 2026, with implementation at the earliest in 2026.
- Transition periods for certain applications will range from 1.5 to 13.5 years.

The Netherlands

Since November 2024, all PFAS are listed as *Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)* by the RIVM. Companies must minimize or avoid their use wherever possible. Additional guidance is available on the Dutch government's website.

New: Revised PFAS Proposal (August 2025)

In August 2025, a revised restriction proposal was published, including more exceptions ("derogations") to give companies additional time to develop alternatives. Key proposed transition periods (from entry into force) include:

- Industrial lubricants and additives – **13.5 years**

- Industrial solvents – **13.5 years**
- Polymer auxiliaries (e.g., film extrusion) – **6.5 years**
- Seals and gaskets – **13.5 years**
- Machinery applications (coatings, bearings, parts) – **13.5 years**
- Spare parts containing PFAS – **up to 20 years extension**

Note: These exceptions are still proposals and not yet final legislation.

What This Means for You

- Check whether PFAS are present in your products or production materials.
 - Request up-to-date information from your suppliers.
 - Be aware of potential future replacement requirements for PFAS-containing parts.
 - Engage with suppliers early to discuss alternatives.
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More Information

- [ECHA – European PFAS Legislation](#)
- [RIVM – PFAS Check Tool](#)
- [NRK – PFAS Restriction Webinar and Presentations](#)