

ESA Update regarding PFAS (Call for evidence due by 17th October 2021)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are in the focus of regulators in the EU and US due to their widespread presence in the environment and bio-persistence. PTFE, PFA, FEP, FVMQ, FKM and FFKM as fluoropolymers are part of the PFAS group under consideration by EU regulators. Fluoropolymers and fluoroelastomers are widely used in our industry across all the ESA Divisions. The proposed ban in the EU can have a serious influence on our industry. We urge all members to understand the implications of the proposed EU regulation and to respond to the competent authorities (see links below).

In July 2020 the ESA has already issued a position statement regarding PFAS (<https://www.europeansealing.com/esa-position-statement-regarding-pfas-0720/>) on our website. During our Division meetings you were updated about the recent developments on the regulatory front. The FSA issued their position statement in July 2021 (<https://www.europeansealing.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PFAS-Chemicals-Explained-FINAL.pdf>).

The ESA has linked up with Plastic Europe, an organization representing the plastic manufacturers in Europe, to voice the concerns of our industry to have all fluoropolymers such as PTFE, PFA, FEP, FVMQ, FKM and FFKM grouped under the same umbrella as PFAS chemicals like PFOA or PFOS.

Now the competent authorities for REACH of several EU member states, namely the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway are preparing an analysis of restriction options for the PFAS group. A questionnaire “Call for evidence supporting an analysis of restriction options for PFAS” can be answered and submitted until 17.10.21 by concerned parties (<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/Participation/Public/c4d58b80-5227-4f31-b656-92bc0669e41e?displayId=Ger2322406>). We have submitted answers to this questionnaire on behalf of the ESA. In addition, we would like to urge all our members to answer the questionnaire for their company.

To get more member participation to tackle this issue we have an online presentation and discussion about the restriction of PFAS planned on the day of our General meeting on 20.10.21. More information will be issued shortly.