



Input needed on proposed restrictions of PFAS across the supply chain

As you may be aware, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are of concern as environmental pollutants. This group of substances are the focus of increasing global regulatory activity, such as the proposed [restriction](#) in the EU by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA). PFAS, including fluoropolymers, are used in a large number of products and the regulated and restricted use of PFAS will impact many sectors.

The International Aerospace Environmental Group (IAEG) is a non-profit organisation that collaborates and shares innovative environmental solutions for the industry comprised of members from a number of companies, listed [here](#). The IAEG working groups (WG) address a variety of key areas, such as chemical material declarations, reporting requirements, and development of alternative technologies. [WG5](#) is the work group for REACH authorisation and restriction, which aims to provide knowledge and tools to facilitate assessment and management of business continuity risks associated with these REACH processes.

IAEG WG5 has commissioned WSP to support the gathering and assessment of information regarding the uses of PFAS. WSP is working with IAEG members to better understand the uses of PFAS along the supply chain, both in the final product as well as in the product manufacturing process. While the IAEG represents the aerospace and defence industry, many of the products used within the industry are not produced specifically for this industry, which adds to the complexity of identifying PFAS uses.

It is important to understand how far the use of PFAS in products and manufacturing processes reaches to gain an understanding of the implications of the proposed restrictions and regulations. Without this understanding, the industry risks losing access to products and processes that may be critical to operations.

The WSP project team would like to invite your participation in this process and encourage you to provide information to help inform this work. This is an opportunity to ensure the information on PFAS uses in aerospace and defence is based on the strongest available evidence, and the potential restriction and regulation of PFAS is considered with as much information as possible regarding the potential implications for stakeholders and wider society. This information will also help to understand, for example, the need for appropriate derogations, especially in safety critical products and processes. It will also help to illustrate the complexity of, and inter-reliance within, the supply chain as concerns use of PFAS.

We invite the input of information through a stakeholder questionnaire and/or telephone discussion and will also welcome further inputs of evidence you may think are critical to this work. This period of our consultation will run between June and July 2023. The initial deliverable of this work will be a white paper concerning PFAS dependencies in the Aerospace and Defence sector, which is intended to be published and made publicly available on the IAEG website around the end of August 2023.

Only WSP will have access to raw data provided by your company. If any data is identified as sensitive, then this data can be aggregated and anonymised before the results are reported to IAEG WG5 so individual respondent information cannot be deciphered.

Please do contact the WSP project team (in copy) if you have any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe McCarthy', written over a white background.

Joe McCarthy - WG5 Lead