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PFAS/PFOS Statement

On February 7th 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published the proposal for a ban on the manufacture, use and placing on the market (including import) of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The aim of the ban is to reduce the release of PFAS into the environment.

According to the latest estimates, the PFAS substance group comprises more than 10,000 different substances whose identity and uses are only known partially. The most common representatives include PFOS, PFOA, PFT and PFC.

Due to the variety of uses and the difficulty of substitution in some cases, a ban is a complex and a time-consuming process. For this reason, the authorities initially regulated only those PFAS, that were detected in the highest concentrations in the environment and whose effects on the environment or human health could be justified. In the past, however, this method caused, that regulated PFAS was partially replaced by others, so far unregulated PFAS.

Following regulations currently exist for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the EU:

- Perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS; perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, metal salts, halides, amides and other derivatives including polymers) and preparations with a mass content of 0.001% PFOS are listed in Annex I, Part A of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 (POP).
- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid, C8), including its salts and related compounds, was added to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention in 2019. This ban was implemented in the European Union on April 8th 2020 with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/784. In mixtures, the upper limit for PFOA is 25 ppb and for PFOA precursor compounds 1000 ppb.
- PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, C6) including its salts and related compounds was added to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention in 2022. In order to ensure that waste containing PFHxS is managed in accordance with the Convention, the substance was also added to Annexes IV and V of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 (POPs). Inclusion in Annex I is still pending.
- Since February 25th 2023, the placing on the market, manufacture and use of C9-C14 perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFNA, PFDA, PFUnDA, PFDoDA, PFTrDA, PFTeDA) have been restricted in Annex XVII, point 68 of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH).
- In the EU, PFOA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, PFBS and the C9-C14 perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFNA, PFDA, PFUnDA, PFDoDA, PFTrDA, PFTeDA) were also evaluated as substances of very high concern (SVHC) in the sense of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH).

We hereby confirm, that we comply with the current legal requirements for PFAS within the EU. However, we cannot completely exclude the possibility, that some of our articles contain non-regulated PFAS.

Though we are monitoring the legal and regulatory developments in this area very closely. Should the legal status change and a duty to inform arise, we will inform you immediately