

**Dear Sir or Madam,**

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the implementation of the substance-specific topic of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in our company. We would like to respond as follows:

**Background/Proposal for the Restriction of PFAS:**

As part of the EU's Chemical Sustainability Strategy, the Commission presented a comprehensive action plan in 2020 for regulating the substance class of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The stated goal is to restrict the use of PFAS and the placing on the market of products containing PFAS within the EU to the greatest extent possible.

On March 22, 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a dossier on the comprehensive restriction of Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) and initiated a public consultation (ECHA Restriction Dossier). The restriction aims to limit or prohibit the manufacturing, marketing, and use of all PFAS, whether as individual substances or in mixtures and products. PFAS are all substances containing at least one fully fluorinated -CF<sub>2</sub> or -CF<sub>3</sub> group (without any bound H/Cl/Br/I atom). The scope of the restriction proposal covers more than 10,000 substances. The primary uses are in textiles (e.g., rain jackets, specialized protective equipment such as firemen's suits), food contact materials (e.g., pizza boxes, Teflon pans), fire-fighting foams, as well as lubricants. All PFAS are either persistent themselves ("forever chemicals") or degrade into persistent PFAS (e.g., PFCAs, TFA, etc.). PFAS remain in the environment for decades and can impact both human health and the environment. Under the CLP Regulation, only certain PFAS substances are harmonized for classification (e.g., PFOS), while the REACH Regulation includes a candidate list with 10 PFAS entries.

In recent weeks, the proposed restriction on PFAS has attracted significant public attention. At present, there is no legal obligation to report or provide information. Internally, we have intensified our efforts regarding PFAS in corporate processes (e.g., development, procurement, production) and are currently assessing our exposure to potential processing stages or the presence of PFAS in our products (e.g., through PFAS coatings).

Therefore, we kindly ask for your understanding that, in line with our Legal Compliance Principle, i.e., adhering to relevant environmental regulations, we are currently complying with the applicable legal frameworks (e.g., Chemicals Act, REACH Regulation) but do not have separate information on PFAS substances at this time. Once we have gathered relevant information, we will communicate this accordingly.

We hope the above explanations provide you with a satisfactory overview of our efforts concerning PFAS in our business processes.

If you require further information on our substance policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Sincerely,**

Management

