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Information on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

- We are currently unable to make any specific statements about PFAS in our products.
- In general, substances from the group of PFAS are contained in materials such as PTFE, FEP & FKM. These materials are used, for example, for seals in glands and connectors, but also for cable sheaths and for components in the cable (tapes) that are used in particularly challenging environments.
- We are following the European Chemicals Agency's activities on PFAS very closely and will implement the resulting requirements. At present, however, the scope and the obligations are still largely uncertain.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are defined as fluorinated substances containing at least one fully fluorinated methyl (-CF₃) or methylene (-CF₂-) carbon atom (without H/Cl/Br/I atom bonded to it).¹ More than 4700 PFAS, including polymers, with and without toxicological substance evaluation, are assigned to the substance group according to this definition.²

A very similar definition was introduced in the process to restrict the manufacture, marketing and use of PFAS under REACH.³

The reasoning behind the restriction proposal is based on the properties of PFAS, which, among other things, mean that these substances resist degradation. In combination with toxic properties, which some substances in the PFAS group exhibit, these substances can impact the environment.

At the same time, PFASs are widely used due to their wide range of desirable physical and chemical properties. They can be used as gases, liquids, or in solid, high molecular weight polymers. For example, they are stable under intense heat, have water- and grease-repellent properties, and tend to be chemically inert.

Areas where PFAS are used include aerospace, automotive, food contact materials, textiles, leather and apparel, construction and household products, electronics, firefighting, food processing, and medical items.⁴ For most applications, adequate PFAS-free alternatives are not yet known.

It is currently unclear for which products and applications a restriction will be imposed under REACH. It is also unclear which substances of the PFAS chemical group will be covered by a restriction.

¹ [OECD Series on Risk Management, Nr.61](#) ; [CompTox Chemical Dashboard - PFAS Masterlist \(epa.gov\)](#)

² [CompTox Chemicals Dashboard - PFAS OECD Database](#)

³ [Registry of restriction intentions - PFAS \(ECHA\)](#)

⁴ [ECHA - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\)](#)

Therefore, we are currently not in a position to state precise information on PFASs.

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