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PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) refer to a group of over 10,000 synthetic chemicals that are widely distributed in society and found in the environment. The best-known representatives of PFAS are perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

They all contain carbon-fluorine bonds, which are among the strongest chemical bonds in organic chemistry and are therefore non-degradable. They also travel long distances from their source and are easily transported into the environment.
There, PFAS contaminate groundwater, surface water and soil. However, cleaning up contaminated sites is technically difficult and expensive. If the release continues, PFAS will also accumulate in drinking water and food.
Therefore, based on the findings from ongoing risk and socio-economic assessment activities, regulatory risk management measures are continuously being developed and implemented under REACH. REACH is a European chemicals regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals).

The European Commission therefore already has statements for further harmonized classifications of PFAS. Perfluorinated carboxylic acids (PFCA) with 9 to 14 carbon atoms in the chain, including their salts and C9-Cl4-PFCA-related substances have already been included in Annex XVII of REACH. Since 2023, these substances may no longer be manufactured or placed on the market in the EU itself.
PFOS and PFOA are also listed in the EU POP Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants). The inclusion of other PFAS (PFHxS and long-chain PFCAs with 9-21 carbons in the chain) is still under discussion.

We are currently unable to make any statements about PFAS that go beyond the substances listed in the REACH and POP regulations.

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Best regards
ROSE Systemtechnik GmbH

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