

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1297**of 4 August 2021****amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards perfluorocarboxylic acids containing 9 to 14 carbon atoms in the chain (C9-C14 PFCAs), their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 68(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Linear and branched perfluorocarboxylic acids containing 9 to 14 carbon atoms in the chain ('C9-C14 PFCAs'), their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances⁽²⁾ currently mainly occur in the Union as unintended by-products during the manufacture of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated substances containing a carbon chain of less than nine carbon atoms, such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). Furthermore, it is possible that companies may consider the use of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances as substitutes for PFOA, its salts and related substances in the future, especially after the Union Law restrictions on PFOA become applicable. Thus, it is necessary to prevent future possible manufacturing and use resulting in increasing releases into the environment.
- (2) On 17 December 2015 and 12 January 2017, respectively, two groups of C9-C14 PFCAs, namely perfluorononan-1-oic acid ('PFNA') containing 9 carbon atoms in the chain, as well as its sodium and ammonium salts, and nonadecafluorodecanoic acid ('PFDA') containing 10 carbon atoms in the chain, as well as its sodium and ammonium salts, were included in the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern ('SVHC') to be potentially included in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, as toxic for reproduction in accordance with Article 57(c) of that Regulation, and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic ('PBT') substances, in accordance with Article 57(d) of that Regulation. Moreover, PFNA and PFDA, as well as their sodium and ammonium salts, are listed in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁾ as carcinogenic, category 2 and toxic to reproduction, category 1B. On 19 December 2012, hencosafluoroundecanoic acid ('PFUnDA') containing 11 carbon atoms in the chain, tricosafuorododecanoic acid ('PFDoDA') containing 12 carbon atoms in the chain, pentacosafuorotridecanoic acid ('PFTrDA') containing 13 carbon atoms in the chain and heptacosafuorotetradecanoic acid ('PFTDA') containing 14 carbon atoms in the chain were included in the Candidate List of SVHC, as very persistent and very bioaccumulative ('vPvB') substances, in accordance with Article 57(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. C9-C14 PFCA-related substances are also to be regarded as PBT or vPvB substances, respectively, due to their transformation or degradation in the environment to C9-C14 PFCAs.
- (3) On 6 October 2017, Germany and Sweden submitted to the European Chemicals Agency ('the Agency'), a dossier⁽⁴⁾ pursuant to Article 69(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ('the Annex XV dossier') proposing to restrict the manufacture and placing on the market of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances on their own, and to restrict their use in the production of, and placing on the market in, other substances as a constituent, mixtures and articles or parts thereof. In order to reduce the release of those substances into the environment and to prevent them from being manufactured, placed on the market and used as substitutes for the substances

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ C9-C14 PFCA-related substances are substances that, based on their molecular structure are considered to have the potential to degrade or be transformed to C9-C14 PFCAs.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2ec5dfdd-0e63-0b49-d756-4dc1bae7ec61>

restricted by entry 68 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ⁽⁵⁾, Germany and Sweden proposed a concentration limit of 25 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs and their salts and 260 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCA-related substances. Exemptions were proposed by Germany and Sweden for C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances when they occur as unintended by-products during the manufacturing of fluorochemicals with a perfluoro carbon chain equal to or shorter than eight atoms or for use as transported isolated intermediates.

- (4) On 14 September 2018, the Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment ('RAC') adopted its opinion concluding that, subject to modification of the scope and conditions proposed in the Annex XV dossier, a restriction on manufacture, use and placing on the market of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and related substances, is the most appropriate Union-wide measure to address the identified risks in terms of effectiveness in reducing those risks. RAC agreed with the concentration limits as proposed by Germany and Sweden. RAC agreed with the exemptions proposed by Germany and Sweden as the proposed restriction is not intended to prevent the manufacture of the fluorochemicals with six or less carbon atoms in the molecular chain. RAC recommended exempting for a limited period the use in the production of pressurised metered-dose inhalers that are critical for the treatment of lung diseases because of the low volumes in the order of few grams involved and the important medical use. RAC expressed the opinion to grant a time-limited exemption for semiconductors that contain low levels of C9-C14 PFCAs and for semi-finished and finished electronic equipment containing specialty semiconductors to be used as replacement parts for finished electronic equipment.
- (5) Furthermore, RAC recommended to apply to the restriction of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances the same exemptions which apply to the PFOA restriction in entry 68 to Annex XVII of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.
- (6) On 29 November 2018, the Agency's Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis ('SEAC') adopted its opinion, indicating that the restriction proposed in the Annex XV dossier, as modified by RAC and SEAC, is the most appropriate Union-wide measure to address the identified risks in terms of its socioeconomic benefits and socioeconomic costs.
- (7) Based on the socioeconomic elements provided in the Annex XV dossier and submitted during the public consultations, SEAC agreed with the exemptions proposed in the Annex XV dossier and recommended by RAC. SEAC concurred with the proposed 18-month deferral of the restriction. In addition, SEAC suggested higher limit values for fluoropolymers that contain perfluoropropoxy-groups or perfluoromethoxy-groups and are used in specific product groups in order to allow their production. Nonetheless, the generic threshold of 25 ppb remains applicable to the final articles manufactured from those materials.
- (8) The Agency's Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement, referred to in Article 76(1)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, was consulted during the restriction process and its opinion has been taken into account.
- (9) On 16 January 2019, the Agency submitted the opinions of the RAC and SEAC ⁽⁶⁾ to the Commission.
- (10) Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁷⁾ was amended in accordance with the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties (SC-9/12) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for PFOA ⁽⁸⁾, which contains some but not all the derogations included in entry 68 of Annex XVII of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Entry 68 of that Annex was effectively replaced by the abovementioned amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021. The exemptions which apply to the use of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds in the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 should also apply to C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances under the same conditions because of the manufacturing process of fluorochemicals in which both group of substances are present as impurities.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1000 of 13 June 2017 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related substances (OJ L 150, 14.6.2017, p. 14).

⁽⁶⁾ https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13641/rest_pfcas_compiled_racseac_opi_en.pdf/b06db225-3995-13fd-d89a-a9b73ef6bfc2

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 188 I, 15.6.2020, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ <http://www.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP9/tabid/7521/Default.aspx>

- (11) After the finalisation of the RAC and SEAC opinion on the proposed restriction for C9-C14 PFCAs, the Commission received two additional requests for exemptions to allow the production of fluoropolymers and fluoroelastomers, as well as the production of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) micro powders and the use in mixtures and articles for industrial and professional applications. The Commission asked ECHA for a supplementary opinion, as the final products are used in high value applications ⁽⁹⁾. The Commission received RAC's and SEAC's supplementary opinion on 15 December 2020 ⁽¹⁰⁾.
- (12) Taking into account the Annex XV dossier, the opinions of RAC and SEAC, the Commission considers that an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment arises from the manufacture, use or placing on the market of linear and/or branched C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA- related substances on their own, as a constituent of other substances, in mixtures and in articles, which needs to be addressed on a Union-wide basis. The Commission considers that the proposed restriction, as amended by RAC and SEAC opinions, taking into account its socioeconomic impact and availability of alternatives as well as the alignment of some of the exemptions in this restriction to the exemptions in the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 is an appropriate Union-wide measure to address the identified risk.
- (13) Stakeholders should be allowed sufficient time to take appropriate measures to comply with the restriction. Therefore, taking into account the suggestion from the Annex XV dossier as well as RAC's and SEAC's considerations, the application of the restriction should be deferred for 18 months. Longer deferrals or overall exemptions should apply to address the particular cases of specific sectors.
- (14) Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (15) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 133 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 4 August 2021.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

⁽⁹⁾ <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/034d97c3-7975-19f5-3739-76c288ad2b0c>

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13579/art77_3c_pfoa_pfca_derogations_compiled_rac_seac_opinions_en.pdf/6582d9a1-56b2-3e88-a70f-cdf3ab33d421

ANNEX

In Annex XVII, entry 68 is replaced by the following:

'68. Linear and branched perfluorocarboxylic acids of the formula $C_nF_{2n+1}-C(=O)OH$ where $n = 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, \text{ or } 13$ (C9-C14 PFCAs), including their salts, and any combinations thereof;

Any C9-C14 PFCA-related substance having a perfluoro group with the formula $C_nF_{2n+1}-$ directly attached to another carbon atom, where $n = 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, \text{ or } 13$, including their salts and any combinations thereof;

Any C9-C14 PFCA-related substance having a perfluoro group with the formula $C_nF_{2n+1}-$ that it is not directly attached to another carbon atom, where $n = 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 \text{ or } 14$ as one of the structural elements, including their salts and any combinations thereof.

The following substances are excluded from this designation

- $C_nF_{2n+1}-X$, where $X = F, Cl, \text{ or } Br$ where $n = 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 \text{ or } 14$, including any combinations thereof,
- $C_nF_{2n+1}-C(=O)OX'$ where $n > 13$ and X' = any group, including salts.

1. Shall not be manufactured, or placed on the market as substances on their own from 25 February 2023.

2. Shall not, from 25 February 2023, be used in, or placed on the market in:

- (a) another substance, as a constituent;
- (b) a mixture;
- (c) an article,

except if the concentration in the substance, the mixture, or the article is below 25 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs and their salts or 260 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCA-related substances.

3. By way of derogation to paragraph 2, the concentration limit shall be 10 ppm for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA related substances, where they are present in a substance to be used as a transported isolated intermediate, provided that the conditions in points (a) to (f) of Article 18(4) of this Regulation are met for the manufacturing of fluorochemicals with a perfluoro carbon chain length equal to or shorter than 6 atoms. The Commission shall review this limit no later than 25 August 2023.

4. Paragraph 2 shall apply from 4 July 2023 to:

- (i) textiles for oil- and water-repellency for the protection of workers from dangerous liquids that comprise risks to their health and safety;
- (ii) the manufacture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) for the production of:
 - high performance, corrosion resistant gas filter membranes, water filter membranes and membranes for medical textiles;
 - industrial waste heat exchanger equipment;
 - industrial sealants capable of preventing leakage of volatile organic compounds and PM_{2,5} particulates

5. By way of derogation to paragraph 2, the use of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances shall be allowed until 4 July 2025 for:

- (i) photolithography or etch processes in semiconductor manufacturing;
- (ii) photographic coatings applied to films;
- (iii) invasive and implantable medical devices;
- (iv) fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fire (Class B fires) already installed in systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, subject to the following conditions:
 - fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances shall not be used for training;
 - fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances shall not be used for testing unless all releases are contained;
 - from 1 January 2023, uses of fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances shall only be allowed to sites where all releases can be contained;
 - fire-fighting foam stockpiles that contain or may contain C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and C9-C14 PFCA-related substances shall be managed in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021.

6. Paragraph 2(c) shall not apply to articles placed on the market before 25 February 2023.

7. Paragraph 2 shall not apply to the can coating for pressurised metered-dose inhalers until 25 August 2028.

8. Paragraph 2 (c) shall apply from 31 December 2023 to:

- (a) semiconductors on their own;
- (b) semiconductors incorporated in semi-finished and finished electronic equipment.

9. Paragraph 2(c) shall apply from 31 December 2030 to semiconductors used in spare or replacement parts for finished electronic equipment placed on the market before 31 December 2023.

10. Until 25 August 2024, the concentration limit referred to in paragraph 2 shall be 2 000 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups. From 25 August 2024, the concentration limit shall be 100 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs, in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups. All emissions of C9-C14 PFCAs during the manufacture and use of fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups shall be avoided and, if not possible, reduced as far as technically and practically possible. This derogation shall not apply to articles referred to in paragraph 2(c). The Commission shall review this derogation no later than 25 August 2024.

11. The concentration limit referred to in paragraph 2 shall be 1 000 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs, where these are present in PTFE micro powders produced by ionising irradiation or by thermal degradation, as well as in mixtures and articles for industrial and professional uses containing PTFE micro powders. All emissions of C9-C14 PFCAs during the manufacture and use of PTFE micro powders shall be avoided and, if not possible, reduced as far as technically and practically possible. The Commission shall review this derogation no later than 25 August 2024.

12. For the purposes of this entry, C9-C14 PFCA-related substances are substances that, based on their molecular structure, are considered to have the potential to degrade or be transformed to C9-C14 PFCAs.'