

INFORMATION ON THE PFAS REGULATIONS (STATUS: SEPTEMBER 2024)

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Dear business partners,

For some time now, the topic of PFAS (perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) has received a great deal of media attention, with the aim of banning more than 10,000 substances at European level. In addition to toxic and highly volatile substances, the current draft also aims to ban products that have become indispensable in everyday life and industry.

In particular, fluoroplastics such as PVDF, E-CTFE, PFA or PTFE (Teflon) would be affected under the current draft legislation. Without these materials, the production of modern, durable components in future technologies, such as electromobility, would not be possible.

The Federal Environment Agency considers it necessary to regulate the entire group of substances, particularly in consideration of the precautionary principle, because all PFAS remain in the environment for a long time. The regulation of this entire group of substances, as opposed to the gradual regulation of individual substances, should result in an efficient and rapid minimization of exposure to PFAS for humans and the environment. In addition, a switch to alternative PFAS, which are of similar concern, should be prevented. To this end, the Federal Environment Agency is working with other authorities from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark to develop a restriction proposal for this group of substances under REACH. The use of PFAS should only be permitted for applications that are important for society and where emissions to the environment can be minimized by suitable measures.

Walther Flender is working diligently on this issue and is doing everything in its power to ensure that the products currently available with low levels of PTFE (Teflon) are reduced in the future. PTFE is currently used in some belts (GT3; GT4; Skid; Hybrid; LL) for the wear resistance of the fabric. Suitable alternatives are currently being sought.

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