

November 25, 2024

EU PFAS Restriction Update 11.21.2024

Dear Business Partner,

On Nov. 20, 2024, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and authorities from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden released a [progress update](#) on the process to restrict per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Europe. These authorities noted that they continue to consider more than 5600 scientific and technical comments received from third parties since the consultation process began in 2023.

Importantly, the authorities provided that alternative restriction options, besides a full ban or a ban with time-limited derogations, are also being considered. An alternative option could, for example, involve conditions allowing the continued manufacture, placing on the market or use of PFAS instead of a ban. This consideration is particularly relevant for uses and sectors where evidence suggests that a ban could lead to disproportionate socio-economic impacts (for example, in instances where technical substitution is currently not foreseeable). These alternative options are being considered for uses including, but not limited to batteries, fuel cells, and electrolyzers.

ECHA adds that “information has been submitted in the consultation that may form a basis for alternative restriction options for e.g. fluoropolymers in manufacturing, service life and end of life, while still adhering to the purpose of the proposal to minimise emissions to the environment.”

While this update does not constitute final regulatory action, it does signal a fundamental recognition that not all PFAS are the same and certain uses, particularly in industrial applications, may be exempted from the final regulation, provided that emissions are minimized. Syensqo welcomes EU authorities taking a more scientific approach that recognizes the necessity of fluoropolymers and fluoroelastomers in industrial applications vital to EU's green mobility and digitalization transformations.

As such, we will continue to engage EU authorities to highlight that other key sectors warrant treatment under alternative options beyond just batteries and hydrogen applications, including automotive, semiconductor manufacturing and packaging, chemical processing, water filtration, medical devices and more. Moreover, Syensqo will continue to inform Commission and member state representatives on the environmental benefits of Syensqo's move to our [Non-Fluorosurfactant \(NFS\) technologies](#). We hope you will join us in this effort because ensuring regulatory certainty of our partnership is of the utmost importance.

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