**Proposed restriction of PFNA; PFDA; PFUnDA; PFDoDA; PFTrDA; PFTDA; their salts and precursors**

***What will the restriction mean in practice?***

The proposed restriction will prevent potential future releases of intentionally used C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and related substances into the environment.

The potential compliance costs for industry (if any) are described based on the cost estimates for switching from ‘C8 chemistry’ to ‘C6 chemistry’ reported in the PFOA restriction [report](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/e9cddee6-3164-473d-b590-8fcf9caa50e7). See more information on the proposed restriction [here](https://www.echa.europa.eu/web/guest/restrictions-under-consideration/-/substance-rev/18115/term).

***How can interested parties or the public have their say?***

Interested parties can submit comments to the European Commission during the public consultation until 20th June 2018 at the latest, but preferably by 16th February 2018 using the online submissions form at this link [here](https://comments.echa.europa.eu/comments_cms/AnnexXVRestrictionDossier.aspx?RObjectId=0b0236e181a843f5).

***Why is there a need for action?***

The previous restriction for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related substances becomes effective in 2020. PFOA may cause severe and irreversible adverse effects on the environment and human health and is a PBT substance (persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic). PFCAs are synthetic compounds and are classified as Carc. 2 and Repr. 1B and can cause damage to human health. In addition, C9-C14 PFCAs are bioaccumulative and belong to the most persistent chemical substances known.

This restriction of C9-C14 Perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs), their salts and related substances is intended to prevent a switch by industry previously using PFOA-based substances (‘C8 chemistry’) to longer chain PFCAs (‘C9-14 chemistry’) to fulfil the same role in the end products. PFOA has been used because of its special properties such as high friction resistance, dielectric properties, resistance to heat and chemical agents, low surface energy, as well as water, grease, oil, and dirt repellence.

PFCAs themselves do not undergo any further abiotic or biotic degradation under environmentally relevant conditions. They have a high water solubility (compared to other PBT substances) leading to relatively high mobility in water bodies and between different environmental compartments. They can also be transported over long distances via theatmosphere and aquatic environment. As a result they are found ubiquitously in the environment, even in remote areas, as confirmed in biomonitoring data from polar species such as polar bears and seals, as well as in human body fluids such as serum and breastmilk.

***What is the proposal?***

The German and Swedish Competent Authorities propose a restriction of C9-C14 Perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs), their salts and related substances (precursors). The proposal restricts their manufacturing, use, and placing on the market and import on their own, in a mixture or in an article or parts thereof in a concentration equal to or above 25 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs and their salts or 260 ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCA related substances.

See the [ECHA website](https://www.echa.europa.eu/web/guest/restrictions-under-consideration/-/substance-rev/18115/term) for more details.

The Chemicals Helpdesk of the Health & Safety Authority can answer any questions you may have; please contact the team at [chemicals@hsa.ie](mailto:chemicals@hsa.ie) December 21st 2017