# Product information

## What does ‘PFASs’ stand for?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are a large family of thousands of synthetic chemicals that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl ($CF_3$) or methylene ($CF_2$) carbon atom. The definition would also include all fluoropolymers (PTFE, PVDF, PCTFE, PFA, etc.). They contain carbon-fluorine bonds, which are counted among the strongest chemical bonds in organic chemistry and are difficult to (bio)degrade.

## Why are PFASs currently a topic of discussion?

PFASs are water, grease and dirt repellent, not to mention chemically and thermally stable. These properties mean they are processed in numerous consumer products. Both the identity and use are only partially known to the authorities. Additionally, there is limited knowledge as to what impact they have.

This – combined with the fact that long-chain PFASs are very long-lived in the environment – makes PFASs seem questionable.

## Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

Since 2020, the competent authorities of five EU countries (Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Denmark) have prepared a proposal on the REACH restriction dossier for all PFASs. The restriction proposal was submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on 13 January 2023.

The ECHA is committed to safe chemical usage. It puts into practice groundbreaking EU chemicals legislation that benefits human health and environmental protection and boosts Europe’s competitiveness.

## What are the authorities’ next steps?

- The applicants of the dossier propose that the use of all PFASs be banned in all applications over time.
- A public consultation process will be held between March and September 2023 to assess what the socio-economic impact of a ban might be.
- An EC proposal to amend REACH Annex XVII is expected to be submitted in the fourth quarter of 2023 following consultation with member states.
- In the third quarter of 2025, any entry into force of restrictions / bans will depend on the outcome of the discussion on restrictions.

To put it plainly, this means that discussions concerning a full or partial ban will be held during the course of 2023 and a decision will, in all likelihood, come into force by the end of 2025.

In this regard, Röchling is working hard with its raw material suppliers to exclude a few of these PFASs from the ban.

## Are there already restrictions in place at present?

A number of these PFAS substances are also already restricted by the following EU regulations:

- Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)
- Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

# Product information

## Röchling products

We hereby declare that – based on information received from our raw material suppliers and on what we know at present – according to our current delivery range the following product lines:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Foamlite®** | **Hydroma® Hygienic Cutting Boards** | **Hydroma® Quality Cutting Boards** | **LubX®** |
| **Matrox®** | **Play-Tec®** | **Polystone® ABS** | **Polystone® D** |
| **Polystone® E** | **Polystone® FM** | **Polystone® G** | **Polystone® M** |
| **Polystone® P** | **Polystone® PPs** | **Polystone® Trunk-Tec** | **Sustatron PPS** |
| **Sustaglide®** | **Sustakon®** | **Sustamid®** | **Sustanat®** |
| **SustaPEI** | **SustaPPE** | **Sustarin H** | **Sustason®** |
| **TroBloc®** | **Trovidur® EA** | **Trovidur® EC-Clad** | **Trovidur® EC-N** |
| **Trovidur® EPC** | **Trovidur® ESA** | **Trovidur® ET** | **Trovidur® NL** |
| **Trovidur® PHT** | **Trovidur® PN** | **Trovidur® PVC-U-Rundstab** | |

or products:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sustatron PPS GF 40** | **SustaABS** | **Sustadur® PET** | **SustaPEEK** |
| **SustaPEEK CF 30** | **SustaPEEK CM CF 30** | **SustaPEEK GF 30** | **Sustarin® C** |
| **Sustarin C GF 25** | **Sustavacu® 6 GF** | **Sustarin C ESD 90** | **Sustarin C ESD 60 Plus** |

comply with the currently valid limit values set out in the aforementioned regulations.

**We would also like to inform you that PFASs do not form part of the formulation of the aforementioned product lines or products.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

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