



**Sixten** is always active in implementing procedures for the certification of materials in contact with food in accordance with the various regulations. The proposal for a so-called “universal” PFAS restriction was published in February 2023.

The starting point is that all PFAS, including fluoropolymers and fluorinated gases, should be restricted in all applications. Five EU Member States support the proposal, which will be discussed over a couple of years before it enters into force.

The main ongoing discussions will examine the proposed exemptions from the restriction for certain applications where alternatives are not yet available.

The exemptions will be time-limited to 5 or 12 years. There are several consultation periods during which stakeholders can provide input to the proposal. Particularly valuable information concerns the availability of alternatives for the applications proposed to be exempted from the restriction. Sixten, together with its in-house production and certified suppliers, is outlining the latest proposed restrictions on the use of PFAS and the potential implications for the sealing industry, having already planned possible replacement compounds.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals found in water, air, and soil in the United States and around the world. In recent years, there has been growing concern about the potential health effects of exposure to these chemicals. Some scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain PFAS in the environment may be linked to adverse health effects in humans and animals. These effects can include developmental delays, cancer, liver damage, and reduced fertility. Sources of PFAS in the environment are numerous and include the use of these chemicals in firefighting foam, non-stick cookware, and other consumer products. Because PFAS do not break down easily, they can persist in the environment for a long time and can accumulate in the food chain. This means that even small amounts of PFAS in the environment can eventually lead to high concentrations in humans and animals. Recent research has found that U.S. rainwater contains both legacy and newer PFAS, and that these chemicals have been detected in both rural and urban rainwater. This means that PFAS can enter the atmosphere and be transported over long distances before falling to the ground in rainwater. Since PFAS is present in rainwater, traditional atmospheric water generators will be exposed to these hazardous chemicals. Collecting deposition water, which involves freezing water vapor from the air, will not be exposed to PFAS, making it one of the best options for obtaining pure water. At present, the situation is still under decision, and the debate concerns the exemptions granted based on fields of application.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

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Guarnizioni tornite



**S. Lazzaro di S. - BO, 06/05/2024**

**Subject: Use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)**

Some EU Member States have launched a consultation for a possible restriction on the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), using a definition similar to the OECD 2021 definition; according to this definition, PFAS “are defined as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom (with no H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it).”

With this statement, Sixten srl declares that PFAS and PFOA as defined above are not intentionally added to the products marketed, with the exception of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) polymers, which are used as raw materials in some products belonging to the SEAFロン/Teflon product family.

For further details on the affected product codes, please refer to the Regulatory Group.

In any case, Sixten srl informs that no specific tests have been carried out to verify the presence of the substances referred to in this declaration, either in the products mentioned above.

All information provided in this document is, to the best of our knowledge, correct as of the date of issue.

**Sixten srl – Management / Quality Control**