

Wolfratshausen, April 23, 2023

Update on PFAS Restriction Directive

Dear Valued Business Partner,

As a leading provider of high-quality sealing solutions, we at Burgmann Packings are committed to keeping you informed about important developments that may affect our industry. We would like to draw your attention to the Proposed PFAS Restriction Directive issued by ECHA on February 7, 2023, which could significantly impact a wide range of industries that rely on sealing devices.

PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a diverse group of over 9,000 chemicals. It is crucial to note that not all PFAS are toxic or pose risks to human health. Fluoropolymers, long-chain molecules, are non-toxic, non-mobile, non-bioaccumulative insoluble in water, and physiological safe.

PFAS play a critical role in the sealing industry, particularly in applications that require high-performance seals for efficient and safe operation. Fluoropolymers, such as fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers, are irreplaceable in certain industries. A blanket ban or regulation of PFAS, as required for the sealing industry, would have a profound negative impact on the industrial base in Europe and society as a whole.

The proposed directive may lead to a complete ban on the manufacture, import, and use of products containing PFAS (e.g., PTFE, FKM, PVDF, FEP) as soon as 2026. This development would affect a wide range of sealing devices, including flange gaskets, packings, elastomeric and polymeric seals, expansion joints, and mechanical seals.

Industries potentially affected include, but are not limited to, oil & gas, power generation, water, food, pharmaceutical, chemical, aerospace, defense, electronics and automotive. With limited alternatives available for most applications, the impact on the environment, society, and commerce would be significant.

High-quality sealing products play a vital role in emission reduction by preventing leaks and minimizing the release of hazardous, toxic, flammable, corrosive, and reactive chemicals into the environment. Subsequently, the achievement of local and global environmental protection targets like reduction of CO₂ or compliance with international low emission standards are on risk.

As a member of the European Sealing Association (ESA), Burgmann Packings supports the position that fluoropolymer seals should be exempt from the proposed regulation. PFAS monomers (short-chain molecules) should also be allowed in polymer manufacturing, provided appropriate use controls are in place.

To this end, ESA is collaborating with the Ricardo Group to produce a Socio-Economic Analysis (SEA) specifically for sealing devices. This analysis will be submitted to ECHA within the designated timeframe, aiming to secure at least a derogation from the ban for these vital products.



We encourage all manufacturers and end-users of sealing devices to join Burgmann Packings and over 400 other industry stakeholders who have submitted their SEA to the Ricardo Group in support of this derogation.

Burgmann Packings Group, as a downstream processor and distributor of sealing materials, is proactively working with raw material suppliers to explore and develop non-fluorinated polymerization aids. We remain dedicated to providing you with the best sealing solutions while minimizing any potential impact on the environment and society.

We appreciate your continued support and partnership during these challenging times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Burgmann Packings Group GmbH

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