



REGARDING PFAS IN SEALING PRODUCTS

Dear Customer

Many people are asking us about PFAS in our products and what will happen in the future. Below, we will try resume what we know at this time:

FACTS:

PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) are considered carcinogenic. These substances spread easily when they are released into the environment. The problem is also that they are not degradable.

PFAS is used, among other things, to produce those of our products which contain fluorine. That is the materials PTFE, PVDF, PFA FEP, FKM, FVMQ and FFKM.

From the manufacturer of these polymers and elastomers, we learn that the PFAS substances found in the product are so stable that there is no risk when using them. The majority of fluoropolymers available on the market meet with OECD as Polymers of Low Concern – this includes PTFE, PVDF, PFA FEP, FKM, FVMQ and FFKM.

The restriction proposal do not differentiate between Fluoropolymers and other PFAS, and though Fluoropolymers have unique properties which differentiate them from other PFAS and they do not display the environmental and toxicological profiles associated with some PFAS that could be considered of concern, they are not currently defined separately.

So, the problem is rather during the production of the raw material (phase 1), and not least during the waste handling (phase 3) where a possible combustion of these products can release PFAS. After the production and before the waste, the items, i.e. sealing elements, are very stable and will not release PFAS (phase 2).

European countries, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have drawn up a proposal for a total ban on the use of PFAS within the EU. The prepublication was at February the 7. 2023 and the final proposal is expected 22. March 2023. Documents can be found on <https://echa.europa.eu>

In the attached film, you can see the timeline. At the earliest during 2024, we will know which decisions will be made regarding a possible total ban within the EU. It is most likely that there will be a ban on the use of PFAS in products that can be replaced. However, it is expected that exceptions will be made for critical products for the industry. We hope that our materials will count as critical products, and this is what our suppliers are arguing for now. In any case, there will transition periods up to 5 and 12 years depending on how easy it will be to substitute PFAS in a satisfactory way.

SUMMARY:

FPE Seals are well aware of the problem with PFAS. There is no direct danger when using our products in manufactured form, and we follow closely the EU's work regarding the proposal for a possible ban on PFAS. Today there are no such prohibitions. We are also in close dialogue with our suppliers of PTFE, FPM and FFPM and as soon as we know what will happen, we will react accordingly.

Kind Regards

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