

# PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

## Helping clients to navigate the rapidly evolving regulatory environment under REACH

### UPCOMING REACH ACTIVITIES ON PFAS

In May 2020, a broad restriction of all substances that contain at least one aliphatic  $-CF_2$  or  $-CF_3$  group has been proposed<sup>1</sup> in the European Union. The proposal could come into force in 2025.

Companies producing or using PFAS, selling mixtures or products containing these substances and those using alternatives to PFAS have been invited to participate in a call for evidence, to provide information that will help refine the scope of the proposal and determine the effectiveness and socio-economic impact of different restriction options.

Respondents can detail their current usages indicate if they have information on an essential use: one considered essential because it is necessary for health, safety, or other important societal purposes, and for which an alternative chemical is not yet available.

The concept of essential use has not yet been implemented in the regulatory framework of REACH but is considered to be a driver of more health-protective and efficient regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

### PFAS CHALLENGES

PFAS constitute a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that are widely used due to their unique physical and chemical properties.

Many PFAS applications have made everyday life more convenient through their anti-stick and anti-stain properties, and have made technical processes more efficient.

However, these properties also result in a high persistency and wide distribution in the environment, giving rise to the term *forever chemicals*.

The most famous of these are shown below. PFAS contain one or more perfluorinated carbon atom, that is attached to a head group.



PFOA



PFOS

The REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 is one of the most demanding and comprehensive chemical legislations in the world. It is highly complex and therefore is subject to scientific and legal interpretation.

### HOW RAMBOLL CAN HELP

Ramboll's experts assist clients with PFAS-related challenges across the world. We have a strong presence in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. We have vast experience of the REACH regulations in particular.

### OUR SERVICES

#### Regulatory support

- Helping clients to make the case for an essential use.
- Assessing product degradability.
- Assessing exposure to the environment (mass balances, releases to water & air, residuals in articles including end-of-life assessment).

#### Portfolio screening

- Screening and identifying PFAS substances.
- Assessing the role & relationship of individual PFAS as precursors, degradation products and impurities.

#### Alternative substance assessment

- Transition to safer chemicals.
- Supporting informed decision-making on chemicals in products and processes.
- Applying comparative hazard assessment methods such as GreenScreen®.

### CONTACT US

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reach-clp-biozid-helpdesk.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/REACH/Verfahren>

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