

Dear Customer,

We are aware of the planned PFAS restriction process for all substances classified as PFAS by government agencies from five European countries at ECHA. Contrary to the belief of many users of fluoropolymers and fluorinated or perfluorinated elastomers, such as PTFE, these materials are also subject to the proposed ban, alongside volatile and water-soluble fluorochemicals, which initially triggered these discussions. This restriction applies broadly due to the PFAS definition, which focuses on the presence of fluorinated carbon atoms (CF₂ or CF₃) within a substance, regardless of its actual hazard potential.

Thus, even non-toxic, inert plastics and elastomers are included in the planned ban. Due to unique properties such as chemical resistance, high thermal stability, and potential biocompatibility, these materials are irreplaceable in applications like sealing technology, filtration, fuel cell technology, and medical technology. During information gathering for the restriction dossier, the five executing state organizations overlooked essential applications of fluoropolymers and the associated state of the art.

ECHA is conducting a public consultation to collect extensive data and information for evaluating the impacts of a general ban. This process aims to present the specific uses of fluoropolymers in Europe, their economic and environmental benefits, and the social and economic impacts of a potential ban or regulation.

As a distributor, we also view this restriction critically, as it would affect our PTFE-based products, specifically chemically resistant and stable PTFE mounting molds and our carrier system for self-adhesive grinding paper. Since we have not received detailed statements from manufacturers regarding whether the products mentioned contain PFAS, we cannot currently make a definitive statement on this specific matter.

In conclusion, we hereby declare that our consumable products do not contain substances that may be subject to the planned PFAS restriction process by ECHA for all classified PFAS substances. However, for now, we exempt the following products from this declaration, as these are subject to the aforementioned broad PFAS definition, regardless of their actual hazardous potential:

- Qprep PTFE mounting molds
- Qprep X-Tap fixation system for self-adhesive grinding paper

Additionally, QATM hereby declares that we take care not to incorporate such substances during the development of our materialographic consumables portfolio. If the use of PFAS is necessary to fulfill the high-performance criteria of our QATM consumable products, the usage is clearly declared.

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QATM products have been manufactured without the intentional use of PFAS. If the use of such substances cannot be avoided, QATM clearly declares it. The declaration of such substance use will be part of the product datasheet. Please contact our consumables team via consumables@qatm.com if you need further information on this subject.

QATM has processes and procedures in place to ensure that our suppliers meet our expectations. We communicate our requirements to our suppliers to ensure that PFAS are not used in our products. We subsequently obtain declarations from our suppliers confirming their commitment and upstream due diligence. QATM is diligently working to ensure that our supply chain is, remains, or will become free of PFAS. As this is subject to ongoing developments, this declaration will be updated as necessary.

Mammelzen, 29.10.2024



Thomas Pühringer