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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Tisan Oy constantly follow the regulatory developments that could affect our products regarding the presence of PFAS substances.

We follow the situation mainly through the support of our suppliers and their compound suppliers, trade associations with which our suppliers participate in common initiatives as well as customers who are particularly attentive to the issue.

Regarding the proposal currently under discussion, it is necessary to consider that Fluoropolymers such as FPM, FKM, FEPM, FFKM, FVMQ and PTFE fall within the definition of PFAS and therefore all products that use blends with these polymers are to be considered containing high percentages of PFAS. With less significant percentages, the above also applies in the presence of surface treatments containing PTFE.

In connection with the proposals regarding restricting the use of PFASs under discussion at EU level, on 22/03/23 the ECHA (European Chemical Agency) officially submitted its proposal for a restriction on PFASs ,including more than 10 000 poly- and per-fluor alkyl substances, without distinguishing between substances with known hazardous nature (e.g. PFOAs, which are already subject to restrictions) and substances that are not bio accumulative and toxic to humans (e.g. fluorinated polymeric substances such as FKM compounds).

The proposal drawn up by the Member States has already been challenged by their lead Country, Germany. In fact, the German government recently announced that it would not support such a broad restriction. Moreover, authorities in other countries, such as the UK, have already provided for the explicit exclusion of fluor elastomers and fluoropolymers in general from any future restriction on PFAS. This is exactly what has been requested by Assogomma on behalf of the entire Italian Rubber Industry.

The possible restriction should not be confused with other restrictions, concerning only some specific fluorinated substances such as undecafluorohexanoic acid, its salts and derived substances (PFHxA) which have nothing to do with fluor elastomers and, more generally, with fluoropolymers used in the manufacture of rubber items.

In conclusion, at the moment there is no official limitation regarding the use of these fluorelastomers and fluorpolymers.

On the suppliers' side, in consideration of a number of potentially interested substances in the order of thousands, until this proposal is confirmed, we will not be able to have certain information to be able to share. We will contact affected customers should any restrictions applicable to our products materialize.

With best regards,
TISAN OY

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