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## Proposed PFAS ban in the EU and USA

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published a proposal to ban the manufacture, use and placing on the market (including import) of at least 10,000 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The proposed ban was developed under the EU's REACH chemicals regulation by authorities from Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The aim of the ban is to drastically reduce the release of PFAS into the environment.

A decision by the European Commission on this proposal can be expected in 2025.

According to the proposed restriction, there are transition periods of one and a half to thirteen and a half years for companies to find alternatives, depending on the application.

In the EU, the following PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) are currently already banned:

- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and its salts.
- PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) and its salts
- PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) and its salts
- PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid) and its salts
- PFDA (perfluorodecanoic acid) and its salts
- PFHxA (perfluorohexanoic acid) and its salts

In addition, other PFAS, including those with short chain lengths, are restricted or regulated in the EU.

In the U.S., two perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) are currently banned by the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency):

- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)
- PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)

Currently, there is no blanket ban on PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) in the United States. However, some U.S. states have banned or restricted certain PFAS compounds, such as California and New York. There are also currently several bills in the U.S. Congress aimed at banning or regulating PFAS in various products.

At the moment, only a few of our products (precote 85, precote 19-7, precote 9 and precote 9-3) contain small amounts of pure PTFE, which falls into the class of PFAS.

Pure PTFE is not a chemical that requires labeling, such as the already banned perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or other low molecular weight perfluoro carboxylic acids and their salts, but a high molecular weight polymer that is even approved for contact with food.

**Our products do not contain any of the PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) currently banned or restricted in the EU or USA.**

Since omniTECHNIK Mikroverkapselungs GmbH is committed to protecting the environment, we also want to take responsibility. For this reason, we started a project for the complete replacement of PTFE at the beginning of the year. We are very confident to be able to offer you a completely PTFE-free product portfolio in the future.