

## **PFAS - The group contains categories and classes of durable chemicals & materials with properties dominated by the unique characteristics of fluorine atoms**

### **Recent developments**

Governments and industries are moving broadly in response to emerging health and environmental concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS. These concerns are leading regulators and corporations to take actions that limit or potentially ban this class of chemicals. Some recent examples include Solvay Specialty Polymers will discontinue its Hyflon® perfluoropolymers and Algoflon® PTFE materials made using fluorosurfactants; 3M will exit PFAS manufacturing and discontinue the use of PFAS across its portfolio by the end of 2025; and the EU released its REACH Annex XV proposal to phase out all PFAS.

We are closely following these global developments. Working with a broad base of stakeholders, we are evaluating a range of strategies to address PFAS concerns. Since June 2020, we have worked with our customers, suppliers, and the greater scientific community to explore replacement alternatives for PFAS, should this become necessary. We're available to share what we've learned so far to help you evaluate your options, and to help you participate in industry-wide discussions on this topic.

### **What are PFAS?**

PFAS comprise thousands of man-made chemicals used widely in consumer and industrial products, including non-stick cookware, stain-resistant textiles, fluid seals, self-lubricated bearings and many, many others. The PFAS category includes fluoropolymers such as PTFE, PFA, FKM and others. PFAS exist in a variety of forms, including gases, liquids, and solids.

### **Which PFAS are used in my products?**

The PFAS class includes fluoropolymers, differentiated by the strength of their fluorine-carbon bonds. Fluoropolymers are extremely long-chain molecules. Some examples include FKM (Viton®), FEPM (Aflas®), PTFE (Teflon®), and PFA (Teflon®, Hyflon®). Fluoropolymers have been used for their unique properties, such as high-temperature resistance, chemical resistance, and low friction. These properties make them useful in demanding applications like aerospace, automotive, medical, energy, semiconductor, and electronics.

### **What do we expect to happen next?**

Ongoing regulatory actions are expected to affect fluoropolymer availability. Proposed government regulations continue to evolve, but availability and costs will become increasing challenges as suppliers anticipate these emerging factors. We expect many fluoropolymer manufacturers will change their material compositions or exit specific markets entirely.

### **How will we support you?**

We are focused on working with our customers to mitigate supply issues and prepare for the challenges ahead. We remain engaged in the broader industry-wide conversation around fluoropolymers. We intend to support, encourage, and participate in the transition to more sustainable materials. As a trusted business partner, we will continue to follow this dynamic issue closely, and provide additional updates as new information arises.

