



QUESTIONNAIRE ON NATIONAL PFAS RESTRICTIONS

The purpose of this questionnaire is to map the legislative frameworks that aim to limit PFAS emissions and human exposure on a case EU Member State level.

This work is part of the EU Joint Action **JA Prevent NCD** (<https://www.preventncd.eu/>) that is a European wide effort to reduce Europe's cancer and Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) burden through coordinated strategies on health determinants. It focuses on effective policies, societal and personal NCD risk factors.

Work package 5 of JA Prevent NCD is analyzing the possibilities of regulation and taxation to reduce the burden of NDCs. This questionnaire relates to Subtask 5.7.2: “*Mapping and modeling the impact of policies for environmental chemicals - case PFAS*”.

Overall Subtask 5.7.2 aims to:

- I. Compile information on the PFAS legislative frameworks on an EU level and on a case national level
- II. Evaluate temporal trends of PFAS in human blood in the European population during the last 20 years
- III. Establish model projections to foresee trends in exposure in the next decade
- IV. Explore the possibility of linking blood PFAS trends to implementation of legislative frameworks

This questionnaire aims to map answers to point I, **PFAS legislative frameworks on a case national level.**

OUR QUESTIONS

- 1) Is there any national **legislation** on PFAS in your country? This legislation may relate to restriction of specific substances, areas of application (e.g. F-gases) or maximum residue concentrations in products, foodstuffs or environmental compartments.

National legislation

- 2) If yes, which of the following categories does it belong to? You may tick multiple options below.

- a) Early adopters (national regulations before 2015)
- b) Late adopters (national regulations after 2015)
- c) No national legislation yet (countries without national PFAS regulations)

- 3) Could you please describe your current PFAS legislation more specifically including name of legislation in national language and www-address to legislation.

More specific description of national legislation

- 4) If you have valid national legislation for PFAS compounds, does it differ and how, from valid legislation at EU level (e.g. stricter maximum values or scope of legislation)?

Differences in national legislation compared to EU-legislation

- 5) Does your country have plans for national level PFAS legislation or plans to change it?

National plans for PFAS legislation

- 6) Does your country have **NON-legislative national recommendations or restrictions** to reduce PFAS exposure e.g. in certain areas or for sensitive populations (e.g. avoid fish from a contaminated waterbody)?

National recommendations or restrictions

PLEASE RETURN FILLED QUESTIONNAIRE BY THE END OF DECEMBER 2024 TO:

panu.rantakokko@thl.fi or merja.korkalainen@thl.fi





BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PFAS AND EU LEGISLATION ON PFAS

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in various industries and application worldwide since the 1940s. They are characterized by their strong carbon-fluorine bonds, which together with their other key properties make them resistant to water, oil, and heat. Initially, the term PFAS primarily referred to two compounds: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Today, the expanded definition of PFAS encompasses millions of chemicals that contain at least one fluorinated methyl (-CF₃) or methylene (-CF₂-) group reflecting the increasing awareness of the environmental and health impacts associated with PFAS.

Industry's Voluntary Limitation of PFAS

The industry's first voluntary efforts to limit the use of certain PFAS began in the early 2000s. In 2000, 3M announced a voluntary phase-out of PFOS and related compounds that was largely completed by 2002. In 2006, major PFOA manufacturers in the United States entered into a voluntary USEPA Stewardship Program to reduce PFOA emissions and product content by 95% by 2010 and eliminate the production and use of PFOA and related chemicals by 2015.

First Legal Restrictions on PFAS

The first legal restrictions on PFAS in EU were implemented in 2006 under REACH targeting manufacturing and use of PFOS in various products. Since then, POP Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 and its amendments have further restricted PFOS (2009), PFOA (2019) and PFHxS (2023). Also C9-C14 PFCAs, salts and precursors have been restricted under ANNEX XVII of REACH (2023).

EU's wide PFAS Restriction Proposal

The European Union is currently considering a comprehensive PFAS restriction proposal under REACH. This proposal seeks to phase out the production, use, and sale of all PFAS in EU. However, tightly defined derogations are planned for certain substances. The proposal reflects growing concerns about the environmental persistence and potential health risks associated with PFAS.

EU's maximum levels of PFAS in food and in water intended for human consumption

Currently EU has set maximum levels for 4 PFAS in certain food stuffs including eggs, meat, offal and fishery products (EU 2023/915). In addition, EU has also set maximum level for 20 PFAS in water intended for human consumption (EU 2020/2184).

