The PFAS Restriction Proposal

Media Briefing
Brussels
7 February 2023

National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

baua: Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

KEMI Swedish Chemicals Agency

Norwegian Environment Agency

Ministry of Environment of Denmark
Environmental Protection Agency

“Forever chemicals“

Very High Persistence

Concerns about adverse effects

- Bioaccumulation
- Mobility
- Long range transport potential
- Accumulation in plants
- Effects on human health and ecosystems
- Endocrine activity
- Mixture effects

- All PFASs are either persistent themselves or degrade to other persistent PFASs
- Persistence due to strength of the carbon-fluorine bond
- PFASs remain in environment for decades to centuries ➡ **“Forever chemicals”**

The broadest restriction proposal in history

Roughly 10 000 PFASs

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Why PFASs are used

Combination of useful properties from technical viewpoint

- Water, oil and dirt repellency
- Durability under extreme conditions:
  - temperature, pressure, radiation, chemicals
- Electrical and thermal insulation

Where PFASs are used

Rainwear

Non-stick coating

Cosmetics

Medical equipment

- Industrial processes
- Firefighting foams
- Textiles
- Food contact materials (incl. packaging)
- Metal plating/metal products
- Consumer mixtures
- Ski wax
- Transport
- Applications of fluorinated gases
- Electronics and semiconductors
- Energy sector
- Construction products
- Lubricants
- Petroleum and mining
- Medical devices
- Cosmetics
- Other uses

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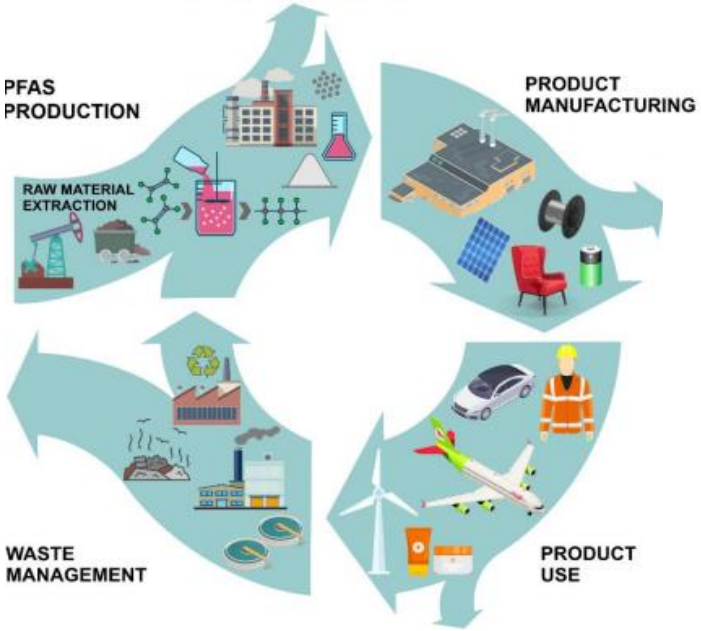
75 000 tonnes of emissions in 2020



Source:
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/chemicals/2020/10/SWD_PFAS.pdf

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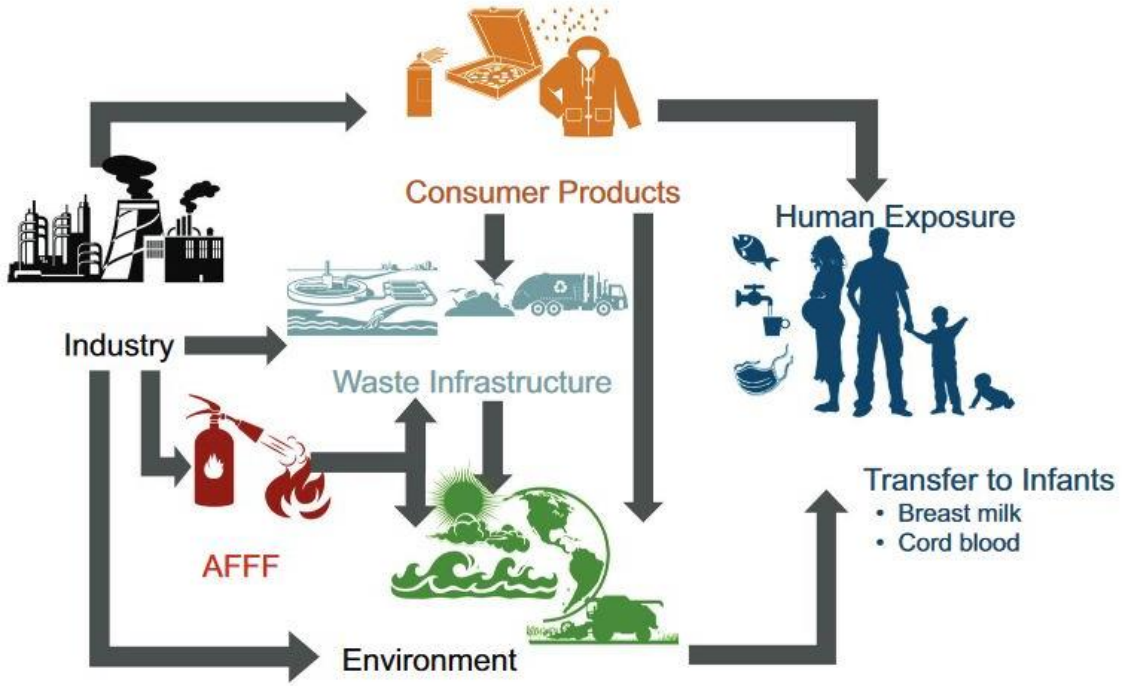
PFASs are found everywhere



Source
https://bgc.seas.harvard.edu/assets/sunderland_jeseerev_2018wsi.pdf

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Why do we need a PFAS restriction?

- **Adverse effects on environment and human health**
- PFASs are used in high tonnages in a variety of applications
- Emissions occur in all life cycle stages
- Monitoring data: ubiquitous presence of PFASs in the environment and in humans
- PFASs have very high persistence
- PFASs are difficult to remove once released into the environment

  ➡ “forever chemicals“

➡ **Uncontrolled risk from use of PFASs in EEA**

➡ **Need for EU-wide regulatory measure(s)**

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The road to the restriction proposal

May – July 2020
Call for evidence

July 2021 – Oct 2021
2nd stakeholder consultation

Oct 2021 – Jan 2023
Drafting of proposal

Stakeholder interviews, literature search, meetings

Jan 2020
First meeting

13 January 2023
Submission of proposal

7 February 2023
Publication of proposal

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The restriction proposal

Dossier: Risks, Impacts

Two restriction options considered:

1. Full ban
2. Ban with use-specific derogations

Proposed Restriction: option 2

– based on analyses of alternatives, and

– socio-economic considerations

Proposed restriction conditions

- **Ban of manufacture, placing on the market and use**
- PFASs **as such**, as **constituent in other substances or in mixtures** as well as **in articles**.
- Above a set **concentration limit**
- **Transition period:** 18 months after entry into force
- **Use-specific (time-limited) derogations**

Uses banned after 18 months

Examples

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Proposed restriction conditions - derogations

Two standard derogation timeframes chosen
Examples:

Food contact materials for industrial food and feed production

Alternatives under development but not available at entry into force

5 years

Implantable medical devices

Identification, development and certification of alternatives needed

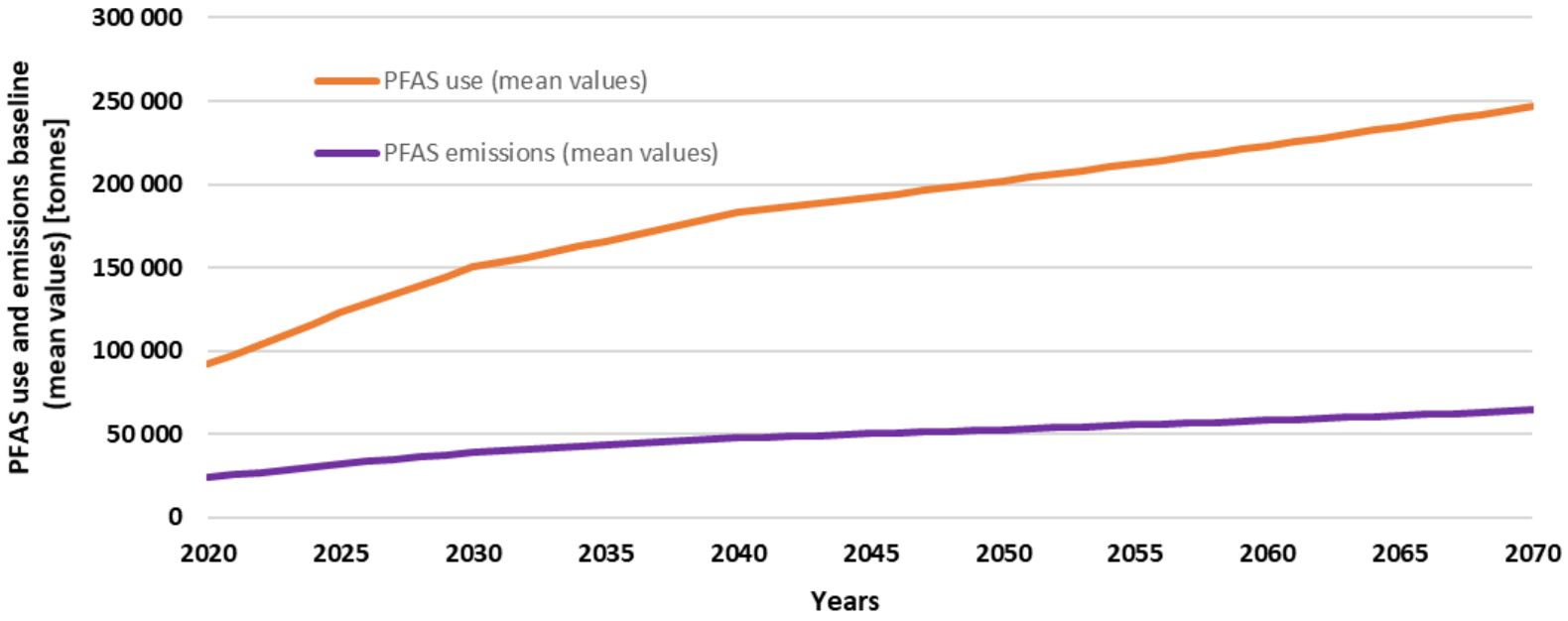
12 years

Example: Textiles

Main function	Impregnation (dirt/oil/water repellency)
Tonnage (2020)	Circa 92 000 tonne per year
Emissions (2020)	Circa 23 000 tonne per year
Estimated emissions (30 years) without restriction	1 400 000
Estimated emissions (30 years) full ban	66 000

➡ **Emission reduction of ~ 95% (in case of full ban)**

Prediction of use and emissions of PFASs in textiles



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Next steps

Consultation in scientific committees
Including 6 months + 60 days stakeholder consultation

22 March 2023
Start of consultation

5 April 2023
Online information session

22 September 2023
End of 6 months consultation

2024
Opinion of Committees

2025
COM decision
Entry into Force

2026/2027
Restriction becomes effective

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PFASs restriction in brief

- **If releases are not minimised, adverse effects are inevitable**
- **Broad group restriction proposal**
- **(Time-limited) derogations for certain uses**
  - Industry: Effort needed to switch to alternatives
  - Environment: Emission reduction of 95 %
- **If no action is taken societal costs will exceed costs associated with a restriction**

➡ **Stakeholders invited to provide input during consultation**