

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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Member States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)¹ and ensure the compliance with EU law. The recast Drinking Water Directive (DWD)², transposed into national law by January 2023, sets two different limits for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): 0.50 µg/l for ‘PFAS Total’ and 0.10 µg/l for 20 PFAS³, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). Member States can apply one or both of these limits, which must be met at the point of compliance, often the tap, by 12 January 2026⁴. Stricter values or additional parameters may also be adopted at national level. While the precautionary principle is indeed central to EU policies, related decisions are taken through an evidence-based process, ensuring the balance between precaution and the broader socio-economic and regulatory context.

PFAS C6O4⁵ as well as other per- and polyfluorinated compounds fall under the broad PFAS restriction proposal submitted under the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)⁶, by Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden public authorities in 2023. The European Chemicals Agency’s scientific committees are evaluating the proposal, including emissions of PFAS during fluoropolymers manufacturing. Their final opinion⁷ will guide the Commission’s next steps⁸.

A targeted revision of REACH, aiming to address both the simplification and modernisation of the Regulation, is still ongoing. Therefore, it cannot yet be confirmed whether an obligation to provide reference standards for registered substances, including potentially polluting intermediates generated during synthesis, will be included.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants (recast), OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 45–77.

² Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1–62.

³ The list of parameters and parametric values for PFAS is included in part B of Annexe I. The list of PFAS included in ‘Sum of PFAS’ is provided in paragraph 3 of Annex III of the DWD.

⁴ Article 25 of the recast DWD.

⁵ Perfluoro ([5-methoxy-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]oxy) acetic acid, CAS no. 1190931-41-9.

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), OJ L 396, 30.12.2006.

⁷ Informed by over 5 600 comments received during a first public consultation.

⁸ <https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-restriction-intentions/-/dislist/details/0b0236e18663449b>