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Statement on the restriction of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAS**) are a large class of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are used throughout society. However, they are increasingly detected as environmental pollutants and some are linked to negative effects on human health.

They all contain carbon-fluorine bonds, which are one of the strongest chemical bonds in organic chemistry. This means that they resist degradation when used and also in the environment. Most PFAS are also easily transported in the environment covering long distances away from the source of their release.

PFAS have been frequently observed to contaminate groundwater, surface water and soil. Cleaning up polluted sites is technically difficult and costly. If releases continue, they will continue to accumulate in the environment, drinking water and food.

PFAS have a wide range of different physical and chemical properties. They can be gases, liquids, or solid high-molecular weight polymers. Some PFAS are described as long-chain or short-chain, but this does not cover all of the different kinds of structures that are present in the PFAS class, which is very diverse. PFASs can be sorted in many ways based on their structure.

PFAS are widely used as they have unique desirable properties. For instance, they are stable under intense heat. Many of them are also surfactants and are used, for example, as water and grease repellents.

Some of the major industry sectors using PFAS include aerospace and defence, automotive, aviation, food contact materials, textiles, leather and apparel, construction and household products, electronics, firefighting, food processing, and medical articles.

Over the past decades, global manufacturers have started to replace certain PFAS with other PFAS or with fluorine-free substances. This trend has been driven by the fact that scientists and governments around the world first recognised the harmful effects of some PFAS (particularly long-chain PFAS) on human health and the environment. As the focus shifted to other PFAS, these have also been found to have properties of concern.

For more information on PFAS, please visit ECHA's website here:
Perfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS) - ECHA (europa.eu)

A ban proposal was submitted to ECHA on 13 January 2023. Public consultations will start from 22 March 2023, within 6 months producers, users and distributors have the opportunity to provide information and concerns to ECHA's Scientific Committees.

In 2024, these committees will deliver their opinions so that in 2025 the EU- Commission can decide on the entry into force. The bans will then become effective in 2026 at the earliest, with an 18-month transition period.

The proposed restriction has been defined very broadly by the lead authorities in the EU, covering more than 10,000 substances.

We hereby confirm that our products, according to the supplier’s declaration, if they are declared, meets all requirements of the applicable PFAS regulations, listed in the latest European PFAS regulations (e.g., RoHS, REACH, EU-POP) .

This means that our products do not use any restricted PFAS above threshold. If declarable PFAS are used above threshold, they are legally permitted and declared. If PFAS are not listed in the European PFAS regulations (e.g., RoHS, REACH, EU-POP) they are neither restricted nor declarable.

Best regards,

Avnet Embedded GmbH
Avnet Embedded (Freiburg) GmbH
Avnet Embedded (Malta) Ltd.