

Customer Information

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and phase-out of PTFE waxes

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are industrial chemicals which are used in several industrial processes and consumer products, due to their special technical properties. This group of substances includes more than 4,700 different compounds. PFAS are persistent in the environment, can accumulate within the human body over time, and exposure to some PFAS may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

Many regulatory and voluntary initiatives are therefore under way or in force to restrict and/or ban the use of PFAS:

- The competent authorities for REACH of the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway have submitted a joint REACH Annex XV Restriction Dossier beginning of 2023.
- A large number of US states have limited or banned PFAS in food packaging.
- Denmark has banned PFAS chemicals (including PTFE) in paper and board food packaging. Order No. 681 of May 25, 2020, prohibits the use of such substances unless a functional barrier prevents migration into the food.
- The Netherlands has banned PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA and PFHxS) in paper and board food packaging. Regeling 3348384-1027396-VGP prohibits the use of such substances in the manufacturing of food contact materials.
- A growing number of international brands have committed to phasing out PFAS from all of their packaging.

The overwhelming majority of these PFAS (e.g. PFOS, PFCA including PFOA¹, FTOH), including raw materials that may contain them, are not used at all in Siegwirk products.²

Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE, CAS 9002-84-0) is the only member of the PFAS family currently used in certain Siegwirk products. Up to now, it has been used as a wax compound in certain solvent based, water based, conventional offset or UV/EB curing inks and varnishes in order to improve rub and scratch resistance.

The safe use of PTFE waxes in inks for food packaging has been and still is safeguarded due to their polymeric nature and high molecular weight, making them irrelevant to migration into foodstuff. In the context of food contact material regulations, the polymer is toxicologically evaluated and listed in Part A of the Swiss (EDI)



“Ordinance on Materials and Articles Intended to Come in Contact with Foodstuffs”, without any specific restriction. An OML of 60 mg/kg is applicable. In addition, it is not classified (non-hazardous) according to GHS.

In spite of this, with its foresighted approach, that goes beyond pure product safety but includes all aspects of product responsibility, **Siegwerk will phase out PTFE from all our products.**

By the end of 2023 PTFE-free alternatives will be available for the entire global product portfolio. We are pleased to be able to share this information with you. Please contact your technical support for any PTFE-related questions.

The information in this document reflects Siegwerk’s policy and commitments. This statement is valid without signature.

¹ The EU POP Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants) sets a general limit for PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid, CAS 335-67-1) including its salts to 25 ppb. All of Siegwerk’s raw materials comply with this limit irrespective of the region of use.

² However, the presence of very minute but analytically detectable traces of these substances in the product originating from raw material impurities, or as adventitious contaminants, cannot be fully excluded. We proactively monitor and/or retrieve supplier data on impurities in raw materials likely to contain traces of these substances. We can assure you that, according to the present scientific knowledge, potential traces of these substances in our products, if any, are far below 0.1%.