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Understanding and Managing PFAS: Practical Expertise for Material Compliance

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) comprise several thousand compounds used across a wide range of industrial applications due to their water-, grease-, and dirt-repellent properties—from seals, coatings, and textiles to electronics and medical devices. Because of their extreme persistence, mobility, and bioaccumulation, PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" and have been detected globally in both the environment and living organisms.
These characteristics have triggered one of the most comprehensive regulatory initiatives in European chemical legislation: the proposed PFAS restriction under REACH.

This seminar explains the scientific fundamentals, legal framework, and practical implications for companies across the supply chain.

>> OBJECTIVE

You will understand the properties, risks, and applications of PFAS, as well as the current status of European and international regulatory initiatives.

You will learn why PFAS are being regulated, which substance groups and applications are affected, how companies can prepare for future restrictions, and how you can identify materials containing PFAS in your products.

Upon completion of the seminar, you will be able to systematically evaluate the data and initiate strategic measures for substitution or supplier communication.

Your Advantage: By developing the expertise to actively manage substitution and compliance projects, you can significantly reduce compliance risks while increasing transparency across your supply chains. At the same time, you gain a solid foundation for strategic decisions regarding alternative substances, product development, and customer requirements—strengthening your company's long-term competitiveness.

Industry experts with many years of experience in material and product compliance will share their knowledge with you.

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www.imds-professional.com
info@imds-professional.com

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imds professional environmental product compliance

>> TOPICS COVERED

Introduction and Key Challenges
- What are PFAS? OECD definition and differentiation
- Why are they called “forever chemicals”? Persistence, mobility, and exposure
- Why is regulation becoming increasingly relevant now?
- Relevance for material compliance, product compliance, and sustainability

Substance Classification and Applications from a Compliance Perspective
- Key PFAS subgroups
- Typical functional uses in products
- Common application areas
- Challenges of substitution

Regulatory Framework in the EU and Globally
- REACH: Legal framework for substances
- POP Regulation / Stockholm Convention: Substance- and subgroup-based approach
- Additional PFAS-related EU frameworks
- International developments (USA, Canada, France, OECD, UNEP)

The EU PFAS Restriction in Detail
- Origin of the Annex XV dossier
- Group-based regulatory approach: Why group-based regulation?
- Scope of restriction (derogations and transition periods)
- Concept of “essential use”
- Current status of the process
- Expected path toward European Commission decision

Assessment and Data Management
- Relevant sources (ECHA dossiers, OECD lists, REACH candidate list)
- Screening via IMDS, CDX, and BOMcheck
- Managing incomplete supplier data
- Integration into substance and material data management systems

Corporate Strategies and Implementation
- Identification of PFAS-containing materials and components
- Supplier communication and PFAS declarations
- Handling “PFAS-free” claims
- Substitution strategies and risk assessment
- Integration into compliance, procurement, and product development processes

Practical Outlook
- Expected developments and timelines
- Impact on supply chains and product design
- Transition from reactive screening to proactive PFAS phase-out

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www.imds-professional.com
info@imds-professional.com

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Conducted by:
imds professional GmbH & Co.KG
Waschweg 3
61276 Weilrod (Germany)

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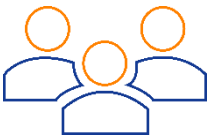
environmental
product compliance

Teaching Method

Lecture with demonstrations, Q&A

Duration

180 Minutes
(3 Hours)



Max. Number of Participants

14

>> TARGET GROUP

Specialists and managers in material compliance, regulatory affairs, procurement, quality and environmental management, and product development who work with fluorinated materials.

>> PERSONAL PREREQUISITES

Prior participation in the seminar “REACH and International Substance Regulations (6150)” or equivalent knowledge of chemical regulations is recommended.

>> CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Each participant will receive a personalized certificate of attendance as proof of qualification.

>> TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

You will receive a copy of the presentation used in class as a PDF.

>> PUBLIC TRAINING

Current prices and dates can be found on our website www.imds-professional.com

>> EXCLUSIVE TRAINING

This training course can also be booked exclusively for your organization, either as a webinar or as an in-person session.
Your advantage: You choose the location, date, and number of participants, and you can set the focus areas of the content.

Phone: +49 60 83 91 30 0
info@imds-professional.com
www.imds-professional.com

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