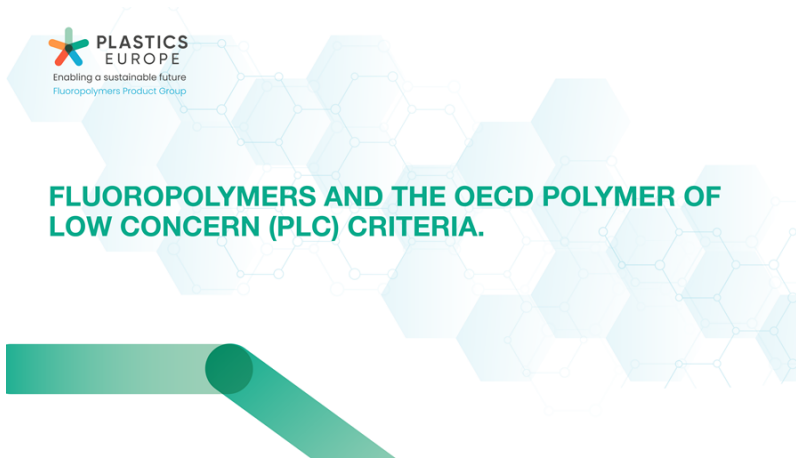


If you know of others who may be interested in receiving this Newsletter, please share using the [link here](#) rather than forwarding. Thank you!



FLUOROPOLYMERS AND THE OECD POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN (PLC) CRITERIA.

FLUOROPOLYMERS AND THE OECD POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN (PLC) CRITERIA

Dear Colleagues,

This special edition of the monthly newsletter will focus on the OECD Polymer of Low Concern (PLC) criteria and their implications for the fluoropolymers industry.

The Fluoropolymers Product Group (FPG) members are committed to substantiating the safety of human health and the environment of its products during their intended use phase. In light of this, FPG members participated in the development of an [in-depth assessment](#) of its commercially available products against the 13 internationally recognized OECD PLC criteria, looking specifically at the use phase of the life cycle and potential threats to human or environmental health during the intended use phase.

The outcome of this effort as well as [earlier research](#) have demonstrated that approximately 96% of the global commercial fluoropolymer market meets or exceeds the OECD criteria. Fluoropolymers have been shown to be chemically and biologically stable, non-bio accumulative, non-bioavailable and non-toxic during their intended use phase.

The study highlights the unique physical, chemical, environmental, and toxicological properties which differentiate fluoropolymers from other PFAS, providing further evidence that PFAS should not be grouped together as one for the purpose of regulation.

Please do get in touch if you would like to see one of your projects featured as a case study in any upcoming newsletter editions. We believe that the voice of our industry stakeholders should be heard.

As ever, please also feel free to share this newsletter with your wider network and invite people to sign up by emailing me at nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org. Thank you in advance!

Kind regards,
Nicolas Robin

Director, Fluoropolymers Product Group
nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org



17 NOVEMBER 2022
15H-17H

EVENT: FLUOROPOLYMERS & THE PFAS REACH RESTRICTION

Join us for our of two panel discussions:

- 1 Fluoropolymers are polymers of low concern, how might they be regulated in the PFAS REACH restriction?
- 2 Are fluoropolymers replaceable?



FPG EVENT: FLUOROPOLYMERS & THE PFAS REACH RESTRICTION

Save the date – 17 November 2022

In light of the upcoming PFAS restriction, FPG and its members are delighted to invite you to our two panel discussions on the scientific, economic and regulatory considerations for fluoropolymers.

This event offers an opportunity to hear from leading fluoropolymer experts, policymakers, users of fluoropolymers, fluoropolymer manufacturers and other key stakeholders.

The event consists of two panel discussions:

Panel 1: Fluoropolymers are polymers of low concern, how might they be regulated in the PFAS REACH restriction?

Place & time: Online, 15h to 15h50

Speakers:

- Darren Abrahams – Steptoe & Johnson LLP
- Steve Korzeniowski – BeachEdge Consulting
- Janet Anderson – GSI Environmental Inc
- US Environmental Protection Agency (tbc)
- Richard Dubourg – former Senior Scientific Officer, ECHA

Panel 2: Are fluoropolymers replaceable?

Place & time: Online, 16h to 16h50

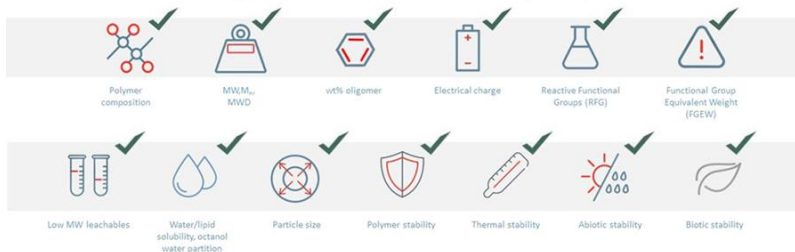
Speakers:

- Bastien B. Cantalloube, Industrial Policy at Hydrogen Europe
- Bruno Ameduri - Institute Charles Gerhardt, Montpellier
- Clémence Siret, Chemicals Management Lead, RECHARGE
- Jonatan Kleimark, Senior Chemicals and Business Advisor, ChemSec

Join us!

REGISTER HERE

OECD Polymer of Low Concern (PLC) Criteria



WHY USING THE OECD PLC CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY LOW-RISK POLYMERS?

Polymers of Low Concern (PLC) criteria have been discussed and elaborated globally to ensure international consistency, with discussions at the OECD level dating back to 1993.

The PLC criteria were created to facilitate polymer hazard assessment that identifies low-risk polymers and in turn assist in prioritizing regulatory activity on high-risk substances. Since being developed, the definition of PLC criteria by the OECD has enabled the identification of chemical, physical, and biological properties predictive of health and environmental effects which are of low concern.

The science developed over 30 years ago, behind the use of structure-activity relationships and predictive modelling, is still valid today independent of their OECD, US, or European origin.

As such, the Fluoropolymer Product Group believes these methodologies should be retained because of their tried and tested scientific merit.



SAFETY OF FLUOROPOLYMERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

An important takeaway from the PLC study is that persistence is not always a hazard, and persistence does not equate to toxicity, bioaccumulation or mobility within the environment or human body.

The study demonstrates the insignificant risk fluoropolymers have on human health or the environment during the intended use phase, according to internationally recognized criteria.

As a matter of fact, fluoropolymers do not break down into potentially harmful chemicals once released into the environment, and their durability presents strong benefits in terms of consistency and safety. Their unmatched durability means they do not need to be replaced as much as their alternatives, which implies less chemical waste and in turn safety for the environment and human health.

This durability also translates into a contribution to the circular economy, as fluoropolymers play an important role in extending the lifespan of a range of products.

Therefore, fluoropolymers are an indispensable driver of the European Green Deal, exhibiting a unique combination of properties within various components in renewable energy installations and low-emissions transport technologies. They are helping drive the shift towards renewable energy, build more efficient

industries across Europe and enable lower-emission transport.



OUR VIEW OF THE REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS OF FLUOROPOLYMERS TO BE PLC

The conclusions of our PLC study also provide further evidence that PFAS should not be grouped together as one for the purpose of regulation.

Although fluoropolymers can be considered PFAS due to their structural makeup, they have unique physical, chemical, environmental, and toxicological properties which differentiate them from other PFAS.

In fact, the authors of the study “advocate for a segmentation based on properties before performing any grouping-based risk assessment, placing stable, non-hazardous fluoropolymers, that meet the criteria to be considered polymers on low concern, in a separate category.”



We hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter.

You received the newsletter because you have shown an interest in fluoropolymers and the work of the Fluoropolymers Product Group. Should you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Fluoropolymers Product Group or find us on [LinkedIn](#).

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Tel: +32 (0)2 792 30 99

[Email Nicolas](#)

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