

Call for Clarity: Exempt Fluoropolymers from REACH Restriction

The Fluoropolymers Product Group (FPG) urges the European Commission to bring clarity to the regulation of PFAS by **exempting fluoropolymers from the REACH restriction**, underpinned by clear, enforceable conditions that ensure environmental protection.

A Complex Dossier, a Clear Need

The PFAS restriction dossier is broad and complex, covering thousands of substances across diverse applications. This has generated profound uncertainty for industries, innovators, and investors. Fluoropolymers, despite falling under the OECD's broad PFAS definition, are fundamentally different from other substances in this group. As high molecular weight polymers, they are biologically and chemically stable, insoluble, non-toxic, non-bioavailable, non-accumulative, and resistant to extreme temperatures and chemical interactions. They do not pose an "unacceptable risk" to the environment and human health (REACH, Article 68). An exemption is therefore justified and appropriate. It would also reduce the complexity of the restriction dossier.

Strategic Value of Fluoropolymers

Fluoropolymers are indispensable in critical applications - from semiconductors and green hydrogen to medical devices and renewable energy - enabling Europe's digital and ecological transitions and reinforcing its strategic autonomy. The Commission has already indicated support for exemptions where substances are essential to these goals. In most such cases, the materials in question are fluoropolymers.

This perspective is strongly supported by the overwhelming majority of respondents to the ECHA PFAS consultation, who recognised the unique properties and essential uses of fluoropolymers.

A Responsible Industry, Engaged in Dialogue

FPG and its members are committed to the **safe use and sustainable manufacturing** of fluoropolymers, as well as to **responsible end-of-life solutions**. In response to regulatory concerns:

- **Voluntary Emissions Reductions:** FPG members have initiated a manufacturing programme to reduce emissions.
- **Safe Handling Guidance:** A comprehensive guide for the safe handling of fluoropolymers across the value chain will be completed in 2025.
- **Investment in Circularity:** The industry is actively investing in end-of-life solutions, including safe disposal and circular use of fluoropolymers.

Moreover, the sector is supportive of enhanced regulation under existing legislation such as the Industrial Emissions Directive and Waste Framework Directive.

A Call to Action

A targeted exemption for fluoropolymers—accompanied by clear control conditions—will:

- Provide the **regulatory certainty** needed to sustain investment and innovation,
- Support **EU industrial competitiveness and economic security**, and
- Reinforce Europe's **green and digital leadership**.

FPG stands ready to continue engaging constructively with regulators and stakeholders to ensure that fluoropolymer use remains safe, sustainable, and aligned with European priorities.

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Fluoropolymers

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About Fluoropolymers Product Group (FPG):

The FPG is part of Plastics Europe, the industry association representing European polymer producers. It operates in accordance with the Plastics Europe governance rules, including Competition Compliance Rules. Plastics Europe covers the EU, plus UK, Norway, Turkey and Switzerland.

About Fluoropolymers:

Fluoropolymers are advanced materials that provide unmatched durability, chemical and thermal resistance, and stability in extreme environments. Their unique set of properties makes them essential in many industries, from healthcare and renewable energy to transportation, aerospace and semiconductors.