



# PFASafe<sup>®</sup> – Next level analysis

## UNIQUE OVERALL CONCEPT FOR PFAS RESEARCH

PFAS are a hot topic. Governments, producers, industrial producers, users, consumers as well as the press are deeply concerned about the potential risks of these forever chemicals on humans, on animals and on the environment. More and more parties need a fast and complete picture of the possible presence of PFAS.

SGS developed a new unique overall concept: **PFASafe<sup>®</sup> – Next level analysis**.

## What are PFAS?

PFAS (Poly- and PerFluoroAlkyl Substances) is a collective designation for 4,000 to 6,000 different components. These man-made chemical compounds have been around since the 1950s. The beneficial properties of PFAS are limitless. The chemicals are water, dirt and grease repellent as well as fire resistant. PFAS can be found in paints, fire-fighting foams, non-stick pans, packaging (pizza boxes and snack packs), cosmetics, carpets, upholstery, rainwear, lubricants, sealants, glues, sprays and many more products.




PFAS also have some disadvantages: they are persistent and quickly spreading. The man-made chemicals are hardly or not biodegradable. Most PFAS are suspected to be toxic and can be ingested through food, drinking water, respiration or skin. PFAS are bio accumulative. This means that the substances accumulate in the human body or in animals.

## Innovative analysis

SGS is the first laboratory to develop an overall concept in PFAS research: **PFASafe® – Next level analysis**. This innovative 3-step analysis combines various techniques and provides the most complete picture possible concerning PFAS in soil, (drinking) water, ambient air, consumer products as well as food.

Whereas traditional PFAS analyses focus on approximately 40 to 60 components (1 percent of the total number of PFAS compounds), **PFASafe® – Next level analysis** includes all PFAS components.

## How it works

-  Step 1: Screening parameter  
We determine whether the sample contains PFAS. If so, we proceed to step 2.
-  Step 2: Target analysis  
We examine the sample for the 40 to 60 known PFAS compounds. This provides an initial insight into the presence of PFAS in the material being analysed.
-  Step 3: TOP Assay  
We examine whether the sample contains other PFAS components. This enables us to assess the risk in a more targeted way, so you can adjust your policy or actions accordingly.

## Stricter legislation and regulation

Currently, most PFAS analyses focus on only 1 percent of all 4,000 - 6,000 PFAS compounds. These are the PFAS compounds that are strongly restricted or banned by Europe, such as PFOA, PFOS and HFPO-DA.

In the next few years, PFAS containing applications will be further restricted. Due to their favorable properties, more and more alternative compounds are being produced and used.

Yet many of these compounds are also PFAS related and will potentially cause harm in the future. It is vital to anticipate on this now and to not underestimate the presence of PFAS in your analyses and investigations.

## Future proof

For over 20 years SGS has been an expert in researching and analyzing PFAS compounds. **PFASafe® - Next level analysis** is a new research strategy that focuses on all PFAS components, not just those known and banned by Europe.

Our analysis goes beyond and recognizes a much broader group of PFAS components. With **PFASafe® – Next level analysis** you broaden your scope. PFASafe – Next level analysis eliminates unpleasant surprises and makes you future proof.

Do you want to know more about PFASafe - Next level analysis?  
Please contact our experts: [Industries.Environment@sgs.com](mailto:Industries.Environment@sgs.com)