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ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

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EU POPs Expansion: Long-Chain PFCAs and MCCPs Added to Annex I Prohibition List



To align with international commitments under COP-12 of the Stockholm Convention, the European Commission has adopted Delegated Regulations C(2026)6059 and C(2026)6262, incorporating long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs), their salts, related substances, and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) into Annex I of the EU POPs Regulation ((EU) 2019/1021). Applying from December 16, 2026, the key provisions include:

- **PFCa Scope Expansion:** Expands restriction boundaries from C₉–C₁₄ PFCAs (currently regulated under REACH Annex XVII, Entry 68) to the broader C₉–C₂₁ PFCA group under POPs. The EC intends to streamline compliance by repealing the REACH entry post-adoption.
- **Targeted Derogations & Thresholds:** Introduces specific Unintentional Trace Contaminant (UTC) thresholds for C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs in firefighting foams and aligns C₁₅–C₂₁ PFCA exemptions with existing semiconductor spare-part derogations.
- **MCCP Prohibition:** Imposes a general ban on the manufacture, placing on the market, and use of MCCPs as substances, constituents in mixtures, or within finished articles EU-wide.

Upcoming Requirements

Restricted substance	Requirements
Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs), their salts and related compounds as unintentional trace contaminants (UTC)	• ≤ 0.025 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs and their salts • ≤ 0.26 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs related substances • ≤ 10 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs as transported isolated intermediate • ≤ 0.1 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₁₄ PFCAs in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers until 16 Dec, 2030 • ≤ 15 mg/kg of the sum of C₁₅–C₂₁ PFCAs in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers until 16 Dec, 2030 • ≤ 0.1 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers from 16 Dec, 2030 • ≤ 1 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs in fire-fighting foam until 3 Aug, 2028 • ≤ 10 mg/kg of the sum of C₉–C₂₁ PFCAs related substances in fire-fighting foam until 3 Aug, 2028
Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) as unintentional trace contaminants (UTC)	≤ 1000 mg/kg of MCCPs in substances, mixtures, and articles

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