

Since 2019, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been working on a general ban of fluorosurfactants in firefighting foams. The draft was published in spring 2022 and is awaiting final approval from the European Commission. If the restriction of these substances is enforced as proposed, current extinguishing agents based on C6 technology will no longer be allowed to be manufactured, used or placed on the market in the EU.

In our timeline, we would like to give you a condensed overview of the next steps.

PFAS regulation of foam extinguishing agents for portable and mobile fire extinguishers

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Pre-study

ECHA preliminary study on the restriction of the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams.

This includes the chemical compound PFHxA, which is the basis of modern C6-based firefighting foams.

Consultation procedure

March 2022:
Launch of ECHA's consultation process on the regulation of PFASs in firefighting foams.

September 2022:
End of the consultation process.

Regulatory proposal

ECHA's final regulatory proposal is submitted.

Entry into force

Expected entry into force of the PFAS regulation in mid-2025

12 months after entry into force:
Ban on placing on the market of extinguishing devices according to EN 3-7, EN 1866 and 16856, with fire extinguishing foams containing PFAS.

18 months after entry into force:
Ban on placing on the market of alcohol-resistant fire extinguishing foam in portable fire extinguishers.

18 months after entry into force:
Practical fire protection exercises with fire extinguishers containing PFAS no longer allowed.

5 years after entry into force:
Ban on use in civil shipping and aviation.

10 years after entry into force:
Ban on use on military ships and civil ships already in operation.

General ban

Expected expiry of the transition period for portable fire extinguishers according to EN 3-7, EN 18696 and EN16856.

General ban on the use of fire extinguishers with extinguishing agents containing fluorine.

2019 to 2021

2022

2023

2025

31.12.2030