

PFAS regulation of fire-extinguishing foams

Placing on the market and labelling require- ments

Extinguishing foams in portable fire extinguishers*

Prohibition on the placing on the market of portable fire extinguishers in accordance with EN 3-7, EN 1866 and 16856 containing PFAS-based firefighting foams.

Fire extinguishing foams, e.g. in extinguishing systems (does not apply to portable fire extinguishers*)

- Labelling requirement for all fire extinguishing foams containing ≥ 1 mg/l PFAS, including for stock and waste.
- Use of fire extinguishing foams only under the following conditions:
- Use only for fire class B
- Minimisation of emissions and environmental releases
- Obligation to collect, document and dispose of properly
- 'PFAS management plan' with the following content: locations and quantities used, measures to prevent pollution, cleaning and maintenance procedures, emergency plans in case of accidental release, fluorine-free conversion strategy

Exceptions Part 1

Extinguishing foams in por- table fire extinguishers*

Prohibition on the placing on the market of alcohol-resistant fire extinguishing foam in portable fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishing foams, e.g. in extinguishing systems (does not apply to portable fire extinguishers*)

Use of extinguishing foams for training/testing fire extinguishing systems (if foam can be collected).

Public fire brigades and private fire brigades + the exception for industrial fires Directive 2012/18/EU

Since 2019, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been working on a general ban on fluorinated surfactants in fire extinguishing foams.

Following the publication of the draft in spring 2022 and the subsequent legislative process, it is now official:

The regulation banning PFAS-containing fire extinguishing foams was adopted on 2 October 2025 and will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

This means that PFAS-containing extinguishing agents may no longer be manufactured, used or placed on the market in the EU in future – staggered according to areas of application and transition periods.

Our timeline provides a compact overview of the most important milestones and upcoming deadlines for both portable fire extinguishers* and fire extinguishing foams in, for example, fire extinguishing systems.

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Exceptions Part 2

Fire extinguishing foams, e.g. in extinguishing systems (does not apply to portable fire extinguishers*)

Prohibition on the placing on the market and use of fire extinguishing foams with a total PFAS concentration of at least 1 mg/l may not be placed on the market or used.

Exception:
Cleaned equipment 50 mg/l (does not apply to portable fire extinguishers)

General ban

**Extinguishing foams in por-
table fire extinguishers***
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 containing PFAS-based extinguishing agents

Exceptions Part 3

Fire extinguishing foams, e.g. in extinguishing systems (does not apply to portable fire extinguishers*)

Prohibition on the use of fire extinguishing foams in establishments covered by Directive 2012/18/EU (excluding civil aviation); offshore, oil and gas industry installations, military vessels, civil vessels (provided that the foam was brought on board before 23 October 2025).

23.10.2026

23.04.2027

23.10.2030

31.12.2030

23.10.2035

*The term "portable fire extinguishers" refers to portable fire extinguishers in accordance with EN3-7, mobile fire extinguishers in accordance with EN-1866 and fire extinguishing spray in accordance with EN-16856.