

Statement on PFAS

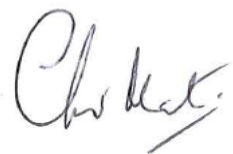
Peppers Cable Glands Ltd designs, manufactures and supplies industrial and hazardous area cable glands, thread adaptors, stopping plugs and associated accessories to British and International Standards.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down naturally, are currently coming under increasing scrutiny by many governments worldwide. PFAS have been in daily use for approaching 100 years in products from cookware to clothing. Many of the seals fitted to our products contain fluoropolymers that can be categorised as PFAS based on their molecular structure. Their environmental and toxicological profiles are however distinctly different to the majority of other PFAS substances. Most fluoropolymers meet the OECD “polymer of low concern” criteria, being non-toxic, non-bioavailable, non-water soluble and having non-mobile molecules. They are deemed to have no significant impact on the environment or human health.

Fluoropolymers are used in many sealing applications due their unique properties which include chemical inertness and resistance to harsh conditions, corrosion, extreme temperatures (hot and cold), and purity. At this stage there are no viable alternatives. The assessment of potential alternative materials has shown that, when available, they frequently cannot meet the critical performance characteristics of fluorinated materials and are not safer. The use of fluoropolymers provides significant benefits along the value chain, making them critical in numerous technologies, industrial processes, and everyday products.

We strongly believe that any restriction proposals should differentiate between the various types of PFAS on the basis of their chemical composition and toxicological profile, manufacturing method, and their particular uses. All PFAS are not the same, and we therefore believe that a universal ban is simply too broad.

We are already working with our suppliers to ensure that we are able to react as early as possible to any proposed or actual changes in legislation, and we continue to maintain a watching brief on the outcome of public consultations and proposed changes to legislation worldwide that may impact on the sealing and compliance capabilities of our products.



Christopher Martin

Quality Manager

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