Are you ready for PFAS Regulations?

What are PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) were developed to provide resistance to water, oil, grease, stains, and heat. PFAS are used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products. While thousands of different PFAS have been developed, regulations are in place or proposed for:

- Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
- Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)
- Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)

Where are PFAS found?



The properties of PFAS make them very popular for a range of consumer and commercial products.

PFAS are found in food packaging, paints, cosmetics and personal care products, water resistant clothing and camping gear, stain-resistant clothes and furniture, non-stick coatings, firefighting foams, semiconductors, photography products, and much more.

Why are PFAS a concern?

A property that PFAS share is that they don't break down quickly, making them ideal for use in waterproof and stain-proof products.

This same characteristic means that they can build up in the environment over time, in soil, water, air, and bio-accumulation in animals and people. This has given rise to the name "forever chemicals".



Who's at risk from PFAS?



We are still learning about the impacts of PFAS on our health, but some studies show a possible link between high levels of PFAS in the blood and certain adverse health effects in animals and humans.

More research is needed to expand our limited understanding, including lower concentrations, different types of PFAS, and a more diverse population sample.

When will PFAS be regulated?

In April 2024 the FDA declared PFOS and PFOA as hazardous subscances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The EPA set Maximum Containment Levels (MCL) for several different PFAS in drinking water, affecting treatment facilities and retail suppliers alike. The FDA has also revoked the use of PFAS in certain food contact applications, and several states have already implemented their own standards for PFAS in products including firefighting foams, dental floss, cosmetics, and more.

The result is that manufacturers, drinking water suppliers, and facility oweners will need a strategy for adhering to these new and more stringent regulations, one that provides flexibility for rapidly evolving regulations, mitigates risk, and prepares them for any potential litigation down the road.



Drinking Water MCLs PFOA, PFOS = 4 PPT

PFNA, PFHxS, FPO-DA (GenX) = 10 PPT

How can I be prepared?

At RJ Lee Group, we've been providing scientific consulting, laboratory and field testing, and expert witness support for over 40 years. We know that even the most comprehensive lab test results don't tell the whole story, so we back our testing with a team of experts to help you understand results and see the broader picture.

We are the industry leader in several material concerns including asbestos, lead, silica, beryllium, and bentonite. We provide scientific guidance on treating existing PFAS contaminations and consult on setting up a successful PFAS management program. We offer PFAS testing in various matrices and have helped our clients meet a variety of application and industry specific testing requirements. We'll help you implement a PFAS strategy that prepares you for whatever comes next.

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