

To customers, business partners and users
of the cables manufactured by Ernst & Engbring GmbH
and other interested parties

Oer-Erkenschwick, 13.02.2024

Update on the PFAS restriction proposal

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

We would like to inform you about the current status of the proposal by some ECHA members to restrict per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS).

The consultation, which closed in September 2023, received 5,642 contributions, which will now be taken into account by the competent bodies of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) when preparing their opinions.

On 22 November 2023, the Conference of Economics Ministers (WMK) took a clear position on the proposal to restrict PFAS and asked the German government to take it into account. In the attached resolution, the WMK points out the enormous importance of PFAS and in particular of fluoropolymers, which are currently found in around 95 per cent of all industrial products. It also notes the significant impact of the comprehensive PFAS restriction proposal on many sectors of industry. The WMK emphasises that, in general, restrictions under REACH must remain risk-based and that there should not be a total ban on PFAS. Adjustments to the proposed transition periods are also needed.

The German government also criticised a total ban after the so-called chemicals summit at the end of September: "In the opinion of the German government, blanket, indiscriminate bans on entire classes of substances are not covered by the existing European legal framework and are not envisaged in the current proposal of the German and other competent authorities. In this respect, a total ban of PFAS is not planned and would not be supported by the German government".

We fully support the wording of the WMK and the German government.

The wording of the WMK and the German government makes us very confident that the irreplaceability of fluoroplastics will be recognised and that there will be no ban.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

Thank you very much