

BASF Position on PFAS

Key messages

1. BASF does not synthesize carbon-fluorine bonds in its production processes and is therefore not active in fluorination chemistry. BASF has a limited number of products that are formulated with substances belonging to the PFAS class.
2. BASF will phase out chemical products that are formulated with PFAS. Using our TripleS (Sustainable Solution Steering) method, we will monitor the phase-out process. We will provide innovative alternatives for our customers.
3. Currently, there is no globally uniform regulatory definition of PFAS. As a global company, BASF applies the definitions that are applicable in the respective jurisdictions coupled with its own product-specific evaluations.
4. BASF supports balanced regulatory measures based on scientific assessments as many industrial processes and infrastructure depend on the use of PFAS. Future regulations should ensure that alternatives for critical applications are available to avoid ineffective and potentially unsafe substitution.

About the topic

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of thousands of chemicals with unique physicochemical properties that have in common the presence of carbon-fluorine (CF) bonds. Not all PFAS are the same, and they may have many different properties. Fluoropolymers are a subgroup of PFAS that may provide products with strength, durability and resilience under extreme conditions, and cannot be easily replaced in all applications. Fluoropolymers are particularly critical in many industrial processes to ensure **safe working conditions for employees** and make production equipment more durable, while also reducing emissions. PFAS are also essential in key applications such as **semiconductors, electric vehicles and renewable energy generation**.

Our ambition on our product portfolio

BASF is committed to safe and sustainable products and supports balanced regulatory measures for PFAS

- BASF does not synthesize carbon-fluorine bonds in its production processes and is therefore not active in fluorination chemistry.
- PFAS are a diverse class of chemicals and there is no globally uniform regulatory definition of PFAS. Taking the scope of the EU PFAS restriction proposal as reference, BASF has a limited number of products that contain substances belonging to the PFAS class. These products have been developed to meet market needs and regulatory compliance requirements.
- BASF will phase out chemical products formulated with PFAS. Using our TripleS method, we will monitor the phase-out process. We will provide innovative alternatives for our customers. Active ingredients of our Agricultural Solutions segment are regulated under sector specific laws and are handled accordingly.
- As a globally acting company, BASF applies those PFAS definitions that are applicable in the respective jurisdictions coupled with its own product-specific evaluations. In the EU and regions which have not implemented PFAS-specific regulations, we apply the scope that is currently projected in the EU PFAS restriction proposal, even though it is still a proposal and will not be implemented for several years. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) definition of PFAS forms the basis for our product steering in North America.
- Furthermore, we are already developing innovative analytical methods to effectively detect PFAS.

Our position on industrial use

Chemical manufacturing sites depend on certain PFAS. Fluoropolymers and catalysts are needed in industrial processes to ensure **safe working conditions for employees** and make production more efficient, while reducing emissions. Many of these aspects are already governed by regulations and are necessary for companies' license to operate. Nevertheless, we will implement alternatives in industrial applications and infrastructure, where feasible and safe. We engage with other stakeholders to increase knowledge on PFAS waste handling in industrial settings.

Consequently, BASF supports a **constructive regulatory approach for industrial uses of fluoropolymers** such as seals and valves used in many manufacturing processes. Considering the need to maintain high safety and environmental standards, **BASF calls for:**

1. substituting the use of PFAS in industrial equipment, where feasible and safe, and supporting the development of effective alternatives for critical applications.
2. ensuring the future use of PFAS for industrial uses, for which no suitable alternatives are available, including necessary management over the whole product life cycle.
3. cooperation with relevant government agencies to clarify the global regulatory landscape with regard to PFAS in chemical production and waste management.

Definitions

ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
TripleS	BASF method for Sustainable Solution Steering. https://www.basf.com/global/en/who-we-are/sustainability/our-contributions-to-enabling-the-green-transformation/circular-economy/triple-s-sustainable-future-solutions