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September 12, 2024

Statement: Fluoropolymers & PFAS Legislation

Dear Valued Customer,

Wyatt Seal, Inc. continues to monitor the development of legislation regarding fluoropolymers and PFAS, partnering with our supply chain to understand the short-term and long-term effects on seal technologies and the industries to which we distribute. This potential legislation could impact materials including, but not limited to: AFLAS®, FKM, FFKM, PTFE, and fluorosilicone seals, as well as internally lubed O-rings. These materials are vital to seals serving a broad range of industries including transportation, medical, construction, oil and gas, and everyday usage; furthermore, they comprise over 50% of our inventory sealing product line.

The presence of fluoropolymers and PFAS in the water supply has been a driving force for legislative initiatives. Domestically, Maine passed legislation in January 2023 to monitor and report the presence of PFAS for those doing business in their state. On April 10, 2024, the EPA initiated the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL), for six PFAS in drinking water. This will have a three-year monitoring timeline with 2027 initiating public reporting of PFAS in water levels, and a 2029 deadline to implement solutions with corrective actions for any violations. European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) opened a six-month period in 2023 for affected parties to submit information; with that period now closed, ECHA is presently analyzing submitted proposals to amend REACH XVII in 2025 for restrictions and considering a timeline for PFAS banning by 2030.

Wyatt Seal, Inc. continues to seek alternative PFAS-free application-based materials that deliver functionality in various applications for sealing solutions. In a short span of time, our suppliers have made impressive strides in sealing industry innovation by developing and providing some alternative PFAS-free FKM materials using non-fluorinated surfactants; however, current technology has not produced a viable PFAS-free solution for FFKM material (perfluoroelastomers) that can withstand the temperature, chemical resistance, and longevity that this durable material is known for. Until sustainable PFAS-free products have been formulated for our sealing solutions, we will continue to supply materials that contain PFAS to meet customer requirements.

Wyatt Seal, Inc. remains committed to seeking industry driven sealing solutions that are PFAS-free. Our collaboration efforts with our suppliers internationally and domestically for PFAS-free options continue. Currently, the materials listed in the first paragraph as well as some others do contain PFAS over the proposed limit of parts per million as outlined in the legislation. The only exception is newly developed FKM alternative materials declared as PFAS-free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa D. Hall".

Melissa D. Hall  
compliance@wyattseal.com