

14th June 2023

PFAS & PFOS Chemicals: RWC (UK) Ltd Declaration

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are a large class of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are used throughout society. They all contain carbon-fluorine bonds, which are one of the strongest chemical bonds in organic chemistry. This means that they resist degradation when used and released in the environment. The majority of PFASs are persistent in the environment. The behaviour of PFASs in the environment means that they tend to pollute groundwater and drinking water, which is difficult and costly to remediate. Certain PFASs are known to accumulate in people, animals and plants and cause toxic effects. Certain PFASs are toxic for reproduction and can harm the development of foetuses. Several PFASs may cause cancer in humans. Some PFASs are also suspected of interfering with the human endocrine (hormonal) system.

Since 2009, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its derivatives (PFOS) have been included in the international Stockholm Convention to eliminate their use. PFOS has been restricted in the EU for more than 10 years already, under the EU's Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. A number of PFASs are on the REACH Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHC), for example PFOA, perfluorinated carboxylic acids (C9-14 PFCAs) and PFHxS. The SVHC identification is based on their persistence, mobility and toxicity, which are considered to pose a threat to human health and wildlife when exposed through the environment (including through drinking water). These PFASs are identified as of equivalent concern to carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxicants (CMRs) and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic/very persistent and very bioaccumulative (PBTs/vPvBs) chemicals.

RWC (UK) Ltd reviews its existing supply base, and to the best of our knowledge and based upon the information provided to us by our suppliers we can confirm presently that John Guest branded products manufactured by RWC (UK) Ltd comply with PFASs regulation. We are aware of proposal now under consideration by ECHA which intended to restrict all PFAS in the European Union due to their persistency. The consultation phase for the new draft regulation started in March 2023 and has a duration of 6 months only (deadline 25 September 2023). Subsequent to ECHA's work the proposal will be forwarded to the European Commission (possibly with modified content) and can become legally mandatory at the end of 2025.

If we receive any information which shows any products do not comply, we will update the statement accordingly. This declaration is based on available information sources from raw material suppliers or quantitative analytical data where available. This declaration will be updated periodically, as and when required, and is valid without a signature.

Engineering Approvals

Reliance Worldwide Corporation (UK) Ltd

