

## Technical Information on the *Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations (PFOS Regulations)*

### What is PFOS and where is it used?

- PFOS is a part of the larger class of perfluorinated alkyl (PFA) compounds
- There are no manufacturers or exporters of PFOS in Canada

#### Current uses:

- in some fire-fighting foams used for fighting fuel-related fires
- in some fume suppressants used in the metal plating sector
- some photographic uses
- may be contained in imported manufactured products (such as fabrics, leather, paper, packaging, rugs and carpets) as a water, oil, soil and grease repellent

A **non-exhaustive** list of PFOS substances can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARRegistry/documents/part/PFOS/app1.cfm>

### Disclaimer:

This document is issued for information purposes only and should not be considered to be legal advice and may not include all legal requirements. If there is any inconsistency or conflict between the information contained in this document and CEPA 1999 and/or the *Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations*, the Act and Regulations take precedence.

The purpose of the Regulations is to protect Canada's environment from the risks associated with the use and release of PFOS.

The Regulations prohibit the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale and import of PFOS, as well as products containing PFOS, with a limited number of exemptions outlined in the Regulations.

The PFOS Regulations are made pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA 1999)* and came into force on May 29, 2008.

### Who is subject to the Regulations?

The PFOS Regulations apply to any person who manufactures, uses, sells, offers for sale or imports any substance defined in Section 1 of the Regulations or a product containing any such substance.

Those subject to the Regulations could include users of fire-fighting foams, the metal plating sector and importers of manufactured products.

### What are the key Aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) provisions under the PFOS Regulations?

The AFFF exemptions are outlined in **section 7** of the PFOS Regulations and are described below.

The PFOS Regulations exempt:

- At any time, the use of AFFFs containing PFOS at a concentration 0.5 ppm or below
- For a period of five (5) years following the coming into force date of the Regulations (until May 29, 2013), the use AFFFs containing PFOS at a concentration of > 0.5 ppm that were manufactured or imported **before** May 29, 2008 (Note that this AFFF may not be used for training or testing purposes)

## Other Information

### Disposal of AFFFs

Authorized disposal facilities are regulated by the provincial/territorial authorities and can only dispose of wastes, hazardous or otherwise, for which they have been issued a certificate of approval or which meet their operating permits.

Therefore it is recommended to contact the provincial/territorial authorities in the province or territory in which you are located to find information on the proper disposal of AFFFs. Following is a link to all of Canada's provincial and territorial environmental agency websites.

<http://ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=En&n=FF9C3376-1#provincial>

## Useful Links

1. Text of the *Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations*:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/eng/regulations/detailReg.cfm?intReg=107>
2. Health and Ecological Screening Assessment Report on Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, Its Salts and Its Precursors:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=98B1954A-1>
3. Health Canada Screening Assessment Report on Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, Its Salts and Its Precursors:  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARegistry/subs\\_list/FinalAssess.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARegistry/subs_list/FinalAssess.cfm)
4. EC's Response to Comments following publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part I:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=54FE5535-1&wsdoc=37A5F9E8-A6D7-4D11-AA07-9204BF9D67D4>
5. Compliance and Enforcement Policy for CEPA 1999:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=5082BFBE-1>

## QUESTIONS?

For more information on the PFOS Regulations, please contact:

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