

## **PFAS Declaration – Update April 2025**

### **What are PFAS?**

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a large group of synthetic chemicals used in various industrial and consumer products due to their resistance to heat, water, and oil. They are often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they break down very slowly in the environment.

### **Are PFAS in the products supplied by The Ashton Group?**

FKM, FVMQ, FFKM and PTFE products all contain PFAS.  
These products are critical to a wide range of industries that we supply

### **What are the current restrictions?**

The current EU regulations relate to the following PFAS groups:

- ☑ PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and its derivatives
- ☑ PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), its salts and PFOA-related compounds
- ☑ Perfluorocarboxylic acids (C9 - C14, PFCAs), its salts and PFCA-related compounds
- ☑ GenX (HFPO-DA hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid) PFHxA, its salts and related substances
- ☑ PFBS (perfluorobutanesulfonic acid) PFHxS, its salts and related substances

Perfluoroelastomer and PTFE are not restricted under the REACH regulations currently. However, certain perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs) and related substances, which can be used in the manufacture of PTFE and FFKM's, are restricted.

Fluoropolymers are considered of low concern as they are largely stable and inert and are also not currently restricted.

### **What are the PFAS free alternatives?**

Sealing limitations of PFAS free compounds, such as NBR, EPM, PU and VMQs are being pushed further and further. Therefore sometimes it may mean they are suitable in applications they may not have been considered for, several years ago. So it can be worth considering reviewing applications to see if alternatives are available.

PTFE Alternatives	PEEK, Nobrox, PU, TPE UHMPE, PA and POM
FVMQ Alternatives	HCR and LSR materials offer high resistance to extreme temperature and chemicals.
FKM Alternatives	Considering the design and application parameters could potentially lead to using other compounds such as HNBR, EPDM, NBR or VMQ.
FFKM Alternatives	Metal seals such as C or M seals. Also high performance plastics such as Peek or Nobrox may be considered

Please contact us for more information or to discuss your application and possible alternatives.