

# URGENT CALL: TECHNICAL TEXTILES!

## GREEN DEAL – TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Due to a very comprehensive ban of PFHxA (a fluorocarbon) in the European legislation on chemicals, many technical textiles which are supposed to protect human beings, the environment, the resources, and the climate, as well as a lot of producers of this type of fabric in the EU, are teetering on the brink of collapse in the EU.



**Textiles for environmental protection and the generation of energy by using “renewables”:**  
e. g., special fabrics for fuel cells, permanently resistant soil liners for landfills, textiles for bio-gas plants



**Textiles used for medical purposes:**  
e. g., plaster patches, dressing material, infection defence equipment that is not subject to the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR)



**Equipment for the Military, the Police, the Border Protection, and Customs:**  
e. g., bullet-proof vests for the police and the defence forces



**Textiles for agriculture, horticulture, and forestry:**  
e. g., textile veterinary protection products (protection against epidemics), extremely weather-resistant protection textiles (e. g., for the protection against hailstorms), insect protection



**Textile building technology, interior fittings, interior trim and upholstery:**  
e. g., long-lasting, resource-saving, and extremely weather-resistant textiles to protect from heat, climate effects, and solar radiation, sun-blind, special fabrics required in accordance with building legislation, fire protection blinds



**Construction textiles:**  
e. g., high-performance textiles for resource-efficient lightweight construction, textile cooling of buildings (sun protection), façade textiles that are repellent to environmental media, textile membranes for surface structures, safety tents



**Highly safety-relevant textile sports- and rescue equipment for professionals:**  
e. g., protective clothing for bikers, equipment for mountain guides and mountain rescue services, parachutes, equipment for ships, life vests for emergencies, avalanche airbags, safety ropes, safety-relevant equipment for aircrafts that are subject to international safety standards



**High-security protection textiles in accordance with the PSA regulation:**  
e. g., textile protection from drowning, cutting protection when using hand-operated chain saws, textile protection from high-pressure jets, protective gear for pilots and astronauts



**Textile membranes for highly safety-relevant electronic applications:**  
e. g., oil-repellent pressure-equalizing membranes, textile electric insulation materials



**Textiles for protective packaging:**  
e. g., breathable, mobile, textile hygienic protective containers, protective covers, protective sacks



**Geo-textiles for underground construction:**  
e. g., long-lasting, media-resistant erosion protection textiles and non-woven textiles for drainage purposes, coated tissues for radiation protection (Radon sealing)



**Textiles for transportation purposes:**  
e. g., fuel-repellent (fire load mitigating), flame-protected textiles for aircrafts, ships, railways, the public transportation system, breathable membrane textiles with separating function for aircraft construction, conveyors that have to comply with high hygiene requirements as they are used for the production of food and beverages

## THE MOST IMPORTANT **FACTS** REGARDING PFHxA:

- Fluorocarbons (e. g., PFHxA) can be used, thanks to their excellent thermal and chemical stability, for a wide range of applications. PFHxA, which is contained as a trace contaminant in additives used in the textile industry, is about to be constrained by the European Chemicals Act (REACH) by an extremely low limit value, which almost equals a ban of application in Europe.
- The substance PFHxA does not have any toxicologically questionable profile. This has been proven by scientific studies. The only issue is that this substance is not bio-degradable, like table salt, for example. In addition, PFHxA is only contained on functionalized textiles only in extremely limited quantities.
- PFHxA is the alternative substance that has been proposed by the EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) within the scope of the PFOA regulation executed in 2017 (regulation (EU) 2017/1000) under REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals), and the textile EU industrial value-added chains have changed over to this substance over the past few years with huge expenditures and excessive costs incurred.
- The EU expert committees RAC (Risk Assessment Committee) and SEAC (Socio-Economic Analysis Committee) criticize, in their joint statement to the EU commission regarding the PFHxA constraint procedure, in addition the fact that there are huge data gaps. Data and evidence delivered within the scope of the constraint procedure by the industry in huge volumes and in a constructive manner, have, however, not been considered.
- The emission assessment forming the basis of the evaluation made by ECHA, are absolutely exaggerated. We have demonstrated that the PFHxA emissions generated by the EU textiles industry, have already been minimized to less than 1 kg / year. Further minimization requirements have been established by TXT-BREF (Best Available Techniques BAT Reference Document for the Textiles Industry – Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU IED). Hence, the EU-wide requirement will be that remaining fleets containing PFAS, will have to be withdrawn and disposed of separately.

## OUR URGENT **PLEA** TO THE POLITICIANS AND THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES:

- Please, advocate our commonwealth being saved from irreparable damages to the EU health and safety measures, the EU consumer protection measures, the EU environmental protection measures, and several other sectors.
- Please, advocate the protection of the independent supply and defence security of the EU, by preserving EU textile companies and by protection hundreds of thousands of industrial jobs in virtually all, and any EU value-added chains linked to the EU textiles industry in a comprehensive way.
- Protect the confidence towards the specialist regulation competences of the European Union in the sector of the EU Chemicals and Substances Act – and save the targets of the Green Deal by doing so.
- Protect the coherence with further European legislations, standards and regulations related to this restriction. Companies need a consistent system of rules – and they rely on it!

## OUR **PROPOSAL** FOR SOLUTION:

The solution for the numerous technical textiles potentially affected by the protection ban in the EU (see chart) is an exception for “technical textiles” in connection with a technical limit value in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14419/oil note 3 (minimum requirement), as well as a commitment made by companies affected, to carry out monitoring of quantities used, emissions, as well as mitigation and substitution measures, and to report to the authorities. The data collected during this process will be able to close the gaps criticized by the ECHA bodies and hence form a solid basis to carry out an assessment of PFHxA and textile products, within the announced REACH PFAS follow-up regulation\*, which will be based on real data and facts collected, and which will be professionally and factually correct. Our experts and all their expertise will be available to the EU commission, ECHA and the competent authorities.



# TEXTILE HEROS **IN DANGER**

[textil-mode.de/de/themen/spezialtextilien/](http://textil-mode.de/de/themen/spezialtextilien/)

\* In addition, PFHxA is precedent to the PFAS regulation announced, and it questions, in practice, all, and any European high technology sectors. You will find further relevant information here: [Registry of restriction intentions until outcome = ECHA \(europa.eu\)](http://Registry of restriction intentions until outcome = ECHA (europa.eu))