PFAS Statement 2024

MacLellan Rubber Ltd are aware of proposals to stringently control or entirely ban the use of PFAS in materials put forward by the EU and other market areas including the USA and are participating in industry consultation which objects to such a blanket ban.

MacLellan Rubber materials are principally free of PFAS, however some products are specifically made with Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances to achieve their broad chemical, temperature and physical performance for use in aggressive process applications PFA free materials are unable to deal with.

Typical polymer materials where PFAS are present include:

FKM - Fluorocarbon
FFKM - Perfluorelastomers
FVMQ - Fluorosilicone
PTFE – Polytetrafluoroethylene
FEP - Fluorinated ethylene propylene
PFA - Polyfluoroalkoxy

It should be noted that at this time many cross-linked rubber formulations consist of larger molecular weight material which are non-bioavailable and are therefore considered to be Polymers of Low Concern (PLC) under current legislation.

MacLellan Rubber shares the view of our industry colleagues and trade bodies like the UK Gasket and Sealing Association, in restricting the release of PFAS into the environment but objecting to the broad restriction of PFAS in the manufacture of industry critical materials. In many applications there are no viable alternatives and therefore any absolute ban will likely be more harmful to the environment as leakages of other harmful media will increase.

It is also worth noting that in many regulatory areas low molecular weight PFAS, such as PFOA and PFOS are already subject to restriction, specifically fluoropolymers are manufactured using short chain intermediates PFAS monomers and consequently manufacturing controls for these materials are already well established.

MacLellan Rubber will continue to supply these materials while they are accepted by our customers, and if the use of PFAS materials does become fully prohibited will offer technical support on the best options currently available.