



Fire Industry Association

Firefighting foams. PFAS Bans

To inquire about this list please contact rthilthorpe@fia.uk.com

The purpose of this document is to highlight the current restrictions on chemicals that impact the use of Firefighting foam across the World

The restrictions cover a number of chemicals include:

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)

PFOS was listed as a persistent organic pollutant (POP) in Annex B (restriction) of the UNEP Stockholm Convention on POPs in 2009. Fire-fighting foams that were placed on the market before 27 December 2006 could also be used until 27 June 2011. Any firefighting foams containing PFOS should have been removed from use prior to June 2011 and ethically disposed of. **Note: This applies world wide.**

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)

The legislation around Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) relates to any substances that can degrade to produce PFOA which includes 'long chain' C8 fluorinated Firefighting foams.

Per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS)

Per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) is a group of over 4700 substances which are used for hundreds of products and processes globally from food production and packaging to Electroplating and of course the production of fluorinated firefighting foams. This includes PFHxA as in the proposed EU restriction.

The following chart outlines the known regulations restrictions on these chemicals by region and indicate what is banned and what is restricted and what can still be used. This document is intended to highlight where a restriction is in place for full details of each restriction see the local environmental protection legislation.

✘ Banned

✓ Allowed with restrictions/timescales

↩ In place

COUNTRY	TRAINING	TESTING	MILITARY	AIRPORTS	FIRE FIGHTING TERMINALS	OIL REFINERIES	CHEMICAL PLANTS	PRODUCT RECALL	NOTES
Australia									
New South Wales	✘	✘	✓	✘ ¹	✓	✓	✓		
Queensland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
South Australia	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘		
Tasmania	✘	✘	✓	✘ ¹	✓	✓	✓		
Victoria	✘	✘		✘ ¹					
Western Australia	✘	✘	✓	✘ ¹	✓	✓	✓		
Australian Capital Territory	✘	✘		✘ ¹					
Jervis Bay Territory	✘	✘		✘ ¹					
Northern Territory	✘	✘		✘ ¹					
Europe									
EU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
UK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

¹ Air Services Australia no longer permits the use of PFAS containing foams at airports.

