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## Information Regarding AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS in Relation to the *Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations*

### Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and Its Impacts

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), its salts and its precursors all belong to the larger group of fluorochemicals called perfluorinated alkyl (PFA) compounds. PFOS, its salts and its precursors are entering into the environment under conditions that have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity. Furthermore, PFOS and its salts are persistent and present a risk of bioaccumulation and biomagnification in wildlife.

### What Is Aqueous Film-Forming Foam?

Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) is a synthetic mixture containing hydrocarbon-based surfactants and fluorinated surfactants that has the ability to rapidly extinguish hydrocarbon fuel fires. Only AFFF containing PFOS is targeted by these regulations.



### Main Requirements Regarding the Use of AFFF Containing PFOS Under the PFOS Regulations

The PFOS Regulations prohibit the **manufacture, import, sale, offer for sale or use** of PFOS, as well as products containing PFOS, with a limited number of exemptions. The AFFF exemptions are outlined in **section 7** of the Regulations and are described below:

- The use of AFFF containing PFOS at a concentration equal or less than 0.5 ppm is **PERMITTED at all times**.
- The use of AFFF manufactured or imported before May 29, 2008, and having a concentration of PFOS greater than 0.5 ppm, is **PERMITTED until May 29, 2013, ONLY FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TESTING OR TRAINING**.
- **Starting May 30, 2013**, the use of AFFF having a concentration of PFOS greater than 0.5 ppm will be **PROHIBITED** except for purposes relating to certain military operations.

### How to Determine Concentration of PFOS in AFFF?

To find out if your AFFF contains PFOS, its salts or its precursors, you should contact your AFFF supplier or manufacturer. If available, you can also refer to the

material safety data sheet (MSDS) of the product.

### Disposal of AFFF Containing PFOS

As PFOS has been identified as posing a risk to the environment, its final disposal should not result in a release to the environment. Therefore, AFFFs containing PFOS should be disposed of at an authorized waste management facility.

Authorized disposal facilities are regulated by the provincial/territorial authorities and can only dispose of waste, hazardous or otherwise, for which they have been issued a certificate of approval or which meet their operating permits. It is recommended to contact the provincial/territorial authorities in the province or territory in which you are located to find information on proper disposal of AFFF.

#### Disclaimer:

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

### Information and Contacts

The Regulations came into force on May 29, 2008. For more detailed information, please consult the Regulations and the related guidance document on the CEPA Registry website, at [www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa](http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa).

Further information can also be obtained by contacting Environment Canada at 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only) or email [GR-RM@ec.gc.ca](mailto:GR-RM@ec.gc.ca).

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