

# Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs)



## Background:

There is a family of chemicals called perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), which include specific variants such as PFAS (polyfluoro alkyl substances), PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulphonate). Historically PFCs have been used in a variety of industrial applications including liquid resistance in packaging.

## The vast majority (99%+) of paper packaging manufactured by CPI Member Companies, does not use PFCs of any sort.

There are some minority speciality applications, such as greaseproof papers and medical non-packaging, which do use PFCs. However, these are an extremely small percentage of total paper packaging, or are not packaging (and will be destroyed at end of life).

## Recent coverage of PFCs

There have been various research studies into PFCs, typically from Denmark, that have suggested that there is a health risk arising from the presence of fluorinated substances in the blood.

In a statement in Q4 2019, the Danish Government has said it will ban the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) in paper and cardboard used in food packaging by July 2020.

Our position is clear, that in the vast majority of applications UK Industry has long since moved away from using PFCs. PFAs are not intentionally added, so we are not aware that such a ban will impact the sale of UK manufactured products.

## CPI Position:

The vast majority (99%+) of paper packaging manufactured by CPI Member Companies, does not use PFCs.

The UK Paper and Board sector has a long and successful history in the manufacture and supply of safe materials for use in the food industry in a wide range of applications.

We support the Industry Guideline for the Compliance of Paper & Board Materials and Articles for Food Contact (1) which provides a methodology for establishing the suitability of Paper and Board for specific food contact applications.

The UK Paper and Board Industry continues to work closely with government, both at national and European levels, and with other regulators, particularly the UK Food Standards Agency, to ensure the necessary levels of consumer protection.

## Further Information

Further information is available from Andy Barnetson, Director of Packaging Affairs, on 01793 889602 or email [abarnetson@paper.org.uk](mailto:abarnetson@paper.org.uk).

## Confederation of Paper Industries

- The Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) is the leading trade association representing the UK's Paper-based Industries, comprising paper and board manufacturers and converters, corrugated packaging producers, makers of soft tissue papers, and collectors of paper for recycling.
- CPI represents an industry with an aggregate annual turnover of £12 billion, 62,000 employees, which supports a further 100,000 jobs in the wider economy.
- For facts on the UK's Paper-based Industries please visit: [www.paper.org.uk](http://www.paper.org.uk).
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