



Not All PFAS are the Same

Zeus Recognizes Fluoropolymers as Low Harm, High Value PFAS

Global discussions around the regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasing, along with concerns about the impacts of these materials on the environment.

Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals, according to the Environmental Protection Agencies. However, not all PFAS are considered harmful.

For instance, substances broadly defined as PFAS encompass more than 4,000 different chemicals and materials ranging from fluorine-based gasses, to textile coatings, to firefighting foams, to fluoropolymers. A major cause for concern is PFAS contamination from environmental dispersive applications such as fire-fighting foams and liquid mixtures of PFAS.

Polymeric PFAS (fluoropolymers) are not environmentally dispersive. The properties of fluoropolymers are very different than other types of PFAS. For example, fluoropolymers are too large to enter the bloodstream, bio-accumulate, and have no known toxicity. Additionally, they do not dissolve in water or biodegrade into components that migrate and accumulate in the environment.

Currently, there are no readily available alternatives for fluoropolymers which are necessary for critical everyday applications such as medical catheters, automobile sensors, and electronic devices. More information on the safety of fluoropolymers can be found [here](#). Despite these distinctions from environmentally dispersive PFAS, polymeric PFAS are still included in regulatory discussions that are ongoing in both the EU and the US. While there are no known legislative restrictions on polymeric PFAS, there is concern that regulations for all PFAS could impact the use and availability of non-harmful polymeric PFAS.

As a manufacturer of fluoropolymer extrusions, Zeus is advocating for the evaluation of polymeric PFAS separate from non-polymeric PFAS. We are proactively engaged in conversation with the appropriate authorities, increasing their awareness of how fluoropolymers provide invaluable socio-economic benefits to the global community with very low environmental risk.

We are also carefully monitoring regulatory discussions and evaluating the potential impact to customers and the markets we serve. Zeus remains committed to providing products that meet our customers' demanding applications and regulatory requirements.