

Milan, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### **PFAS in rubber articles**

As far as PFASs are concerned, in order to answer the numerous requests for clarification, we inform all rubber industries and their customers that we are not aware of any restrictive measure - either at national or European level - that conditions or restricts the use of fluoroelastomers or fluoropolymers.

The dossier recently submitted to ECHA by some Member States on PFAS has been subject to a public consultation, that ended on September 25<sup>th</sup>, with over 5,000 responses and/or comments from the various stakeholders, which will be examined by ECHA's Technical Committees. Subsequently, they are expected to produce a proposal to be submitted to the European Commission, but at present it is not excluded that this restriction proposal could be drastically resized or even withdrawn. Therefore a long legislative process is ahead, which has not yet begun and will take a long time (years).

Moreover, the proposal drawn up by the Member States has already been challenged by their lead Country, Germany. In fact, the German government recently announced that it would not support such a broad restriction.

Moreover, authorities in other countries, such as the UK, have already provided for the explicit exclusion of fluoroelastomers and fluoropolymers in general from any future restriction on PFAS. This is exactly what has been requested by Assogomma on behalf of the entire Italian Rubber Industry.

The possible restriction mentioned above should not be confused with other restrictions, which are currently being implemented, concerning only some specific fluorinated substances such as undecafluorohexanoic acid, its salts and derivatives (PFHxA) that have nothing to do with current fluoroelastomers and, more generally, with fluoropolymers used in the manufacture of rubber articles.

In conclusion, there are currently no restrictions on the use of fluoroelastomer and/or fluoropolymer products, nor are there any studies claiming that they are dangerous.

The Director  
Fabio Bertolotti

