Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2026/1972

12.11.2026

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2026/1972

of 7 September 2026

amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants ([1]), and in particular Article 15(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 implements the commitments of the Union under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants ([2]) ('the Convention') and under the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants ([3]) ('the Protocol').

(2) Annex A to the Convention contains a list of chemicals. Each Party to the Convention is required to prohibit the chemicals on the list or take the legal and administrative measures necessary to eliminate their production, use, import and export.

(3) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has, pursuant to Article 8(9) of the Convention, decided in its twelfth meeting held from 28 April to 9 May 2025 to amend Annex A to the Convention to include long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds in that Annex with specific exemptions. The Union supported the inclusion of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds in Annex A with specific exemptions as stipulated in Council Decision (EU) 2025/868 ([4]).

(4) Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021, which contains a list of the substances listed in the Convention and in the Protocol as well as substances listed only in the Convention, should therefore also be amended to include long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds.

(5) A group of long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds (C_9-C_{14} PFCAs) is listed in entry 68 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([5]), subject to certain derogations, some of which already expired. Annex A to the Convention includes the broader group of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs.

([1]) OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 45, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1021/oj.
([2]) OJ L 209, 31.7.2006, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2006/507/oj.
([3]) OJ L 81, 19.3.2004, p. 35, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2004/259/oj.
([4]) Council Decision (EU) 2025/868 of 23 April 2025 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as regards the requests for extension of specific exemptions and the proposals for amendments of Annex A to that Convention (OJ L, 2025/868, 12.5.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/868/oj).
([5]) Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj).

(6) The derogation for the use of C_9-C_{14} PFCAs in can coating for pressurised metered-dose inhalers laid down in entry 68 is no longer needed, as confirmed by the relevant stakeholder. The derogation for the use of C_9-C_{14} PFCAs in semiconductors used in spare parts for finished electronic equipment granted in entry 68 until 31 December 2030 for finished electronic equipment placed on the market before 31 December 2023 is however still needed in the Union and should therefore be included in Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021. The Convention includes a specific exemption for C_9-C_{21} PFCAs in semiconductors used in spare parts. The group of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs is not yet regulated in the Union and no information is available on their presence in semiconductors. Therefore, Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 should include an exemption for C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds in semiconductors used in spare parts, provided that they were initially used in the production of the semiconductor to be replaced or repaired by the spare part.

(7) To reinforce the application and enforcement of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 in the Union, a limit value should be set for long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds occurring as unintentional trace contaminants in substances, mixtures and articles. Such limit value should be set to 0,025 mg/kg for the sum of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs and their salts and 0,26 mg/kg for the sum of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs related compounds, in line with limits set out in entry 68 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Entry 68 also sets out specific limit values for C_9-C_{14} PFCAs where they are present in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups and in polytetrafluoroethylene micropowders. To allow development of appropriate analytical methods and of technologies to remove the unintentional presence of those compounds from products, separate limits for the presence of C_9-C_{14} and C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs as unintentional trace contaminants in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups and in polytetrafluoroethylene micropowders should be set and be valid until 16 December 2030. After that date, the specific limit value for C_9-C_{14} PFCAs should apply to the whole group of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs.

(8) Specific unintentional trace contaminant limit values should be set also for C_9-C_{21} PFCAs in fire-fighting foams, as done in the entry in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 for PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds. Limit values of 1 mg/kg for the sum of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs or any of their salts and of 10 mg/kg for the sum of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs related compounds in fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fire (Class B fires) already installed in systems should therefore be set and be valid until 3 August 2028. That period of time will allow operators sufficient time to substitute foams containing C_9-C_{21} PFCAs or any of its salts and C_9-C_{21} PFCAs-related compounds above the general unintentional trace contaminant limit values. When removing foams containing C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and C_9-C_{21} PFCAs related compounds from the fire-fighting systems, some of those substances can remain inside the system even after it has been cleaned and could contaminate the new foams that are installed. Similarly to what applies for PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, a limit value of 10 mg/kg should be set for the sum of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and C_9-C_{21} PFCAs related compounds in fluorine-free fire-fighting foams installed after cleaning of the fire-fighting system.

(9) Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(10) In order for the amendment to Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 to apply at the same time as the entry into force of the amendment of the Convention for the Union, the date of application of this Regulation should be deferred,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 16 December 2026.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 7 September 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

In Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021, the following entry is added:

Substance	CAS No	EC No	Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification
'Long chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (C_9-C_{21} PFCAs), their salts and related compounds "Long chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (C_9-C_{21} PFCAs), their salts and related compounds" means the following: (i) linear and branched perfluorocarboxylic acids of the formula $C_nF_{2n+1}COOH$ where $8 \leq n \leq 20$ (C_9-C_{21} PFCAs); (ii) their salts; (iii) compounds related to C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, which are any substances that have the potential to degrade or to be transformed to C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, including any substances that contain the perfluorinated alkyl moiety C_nF_{2n+1} (where $8 \leq n \leq 20$) as one of the structural elements. The following compounds are not included as compounds related to C_9-C_{21} PFCAs: $C_nF_{2n+1}X$, where X = F, Cl or Br: PFOA-related compounds covered by the entry for "Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA- related compounds" in this Annex.	[1] 375-95-1, [2] 335-76-2, [3] 2058-94-8, [4] 307-55-1, [5] 72629-94-8, [6] 376-06-7, [7] 141074-63-7, [8] 67905-19-5, [9] 57475-95-3, [10] 16517-11-6, [11] 133921-38-7, [12] 68310-12-3, and others	[1] 206-801-3, [2] 206-400-3, [3] 218-165-4, [4] 206-203-2, [5] 276-745-2, [6] 206-803-4, [7] - [8] 267-638-1, [9] - [10] 240-582-5, [11] - [12] 269-701-9, and others	1. For the purposes of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs and their salts equal to or below 0,025 mg/kg (0,0000025 % by weight) where they are present in substances, mixtures or articles. 2. For the purposes of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs related compounds equal to or below 0,26 mg/kg (0,000026 % by weight) where they are present in substances, mixtures or articles. 3. By way of derogation from points 1 and 2, for the purposes of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, equal to or below 10 mg/kg (0,001 % by weight) where they are present in a substance to be used as a transported isolated intermediate within the meaning of Article 3, point 15(c), of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and fulfilling the strictly controlled conditions set out in Article 18(4), first subparagraph, points (a) to (f), of that Regulation for the production of fluorochemicals with a perfluoro carbon chain equal to or shorter than 6 atoms.

Substance	CAS No	EC No	Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification
			4. By way of derogation from point 1, for the purpose of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b) shall apply to — the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{14} PFCAs equal to or below 0,1 mg/kg (0,00001 % by weight) where they are present in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups, until 16 December 2030, — the sum of concentration of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs equal to or below 15 mg/kg (0,0015 % by weight) where they are present in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups, until 16 December 2030, — the sum of concentration of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs equal to or below 0,1 mg/kg (0,00001 % by weight) where they are present in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups, from 17 December 2030. All emissions of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs that are unintentionally formed during the production and use of fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups shall be avoided and, if not possible, reduced as far as technically and practically possible.

Substance	CAS No	EC No	Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification
			5. By way of derogation from point 1, for the purpose of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to — the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{14} PFCAs and their salts equal to or below 1 mg/kg (0,0001 % by weight) where they are present in polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) micropowders produced by ionising irradiation or by thermal degradation as well as in mixtures and articles for industrial and professional use containing PTFE micropowders, until 16 December 2030, — the sum of concentrations of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs and their salts equal to or below 15 mg/kg (0,0015 % by weight) where they are present in PTFE micropowders produced by ionising irradiation or by thermal degradation as well as in mixtures and articles for industrial and professional use containing PTFE micropowders, until 16 December 2030, — the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs and their salts equal to or below 1 mg/kg (0,0001 % by weight) where they are present in PTFE micropowders produced by ionising irradiation or by thermal degradation as well as in mixtures and articles for industrial and professional use containing PTFE micropowders, from 17 December 2030.

Substance	CAS No	EC No	Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification
			All emissions of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs that are unintentionally formed during the production and use of PTFE micropowders shall be avoided and, if not possible, reduced as far as technically and practically possible. 6. By way of derogation from points 1 and 2, for the purpose of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to the sum of concentrations of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs or any of their salts equal to or below 1 mg/kg (0,0001 % by weight) and to concentrations of any individual C_9-C_{21} PFCAs-related compounds or combination of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs-related compounds equal to or below 10 mg/kg (0,001 % by weight), where they are present in fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fire (Class B fires) already installed in systems. Those limit values shall apply until 3 August 2028. 7. By way of derogation from points 1 and 2, for the purpose of this entry, Article 4(1), point (b), shall apply to the sum of the concentration of C_9-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and C_9-C_{21} PFCAs-related compounds equal to or below 10 mg/kg (0,001 % by weight) where they are present in fluorine-free fire-fighting foam and originate from fire-fighting equipment which has undergone cleaning in accordance with the best available techniques.

Substance	CAS No	EC No	Specific exemption on intermediate use or other specification
			8. The placing on the market and use of C_9-C_{14} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds shall be allowed until 30 December 2030 in semiconductors used in spare parts for, and the repair of, electronic equipment placed on the market before 31 December 2023. 9. The placing on the market and use of C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds shall be allowed in semiconductors used in spare parts, where C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds were initially used in the semiconductor to be replaced or repaired by the spare part, until 16 December 2031. 10. Articles containing C_9-C_{14} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, already in use in the Union before 31 December 2023, may continue to be used. 11. Articles containing C_{15}-C_{21} PFCAs, their salts and related compounds, already in use in the Union before 17 December 2026, may continue to be used.’