

PFAS in RGP lenses – restriction proposal

Current status and possible impact of PFAS ban on specialty contact lens market.

PFAS (Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) is a generic term for a wide range of substances used across many industries and products, including RGP lenses.

Environment

These substances have many positive properties that benefit the lens wearer, but unfortunately, they are difficult to break down. PFAS are grease-, dirt- and water-repellent and are used in a vast majority of all contact lens materials used globally in RGP lenses to aid essential material characteristics needed for their intended use.

When these health and environmental interests are opposed to each other, we believe that the benefit for the patient prevails, not least as contact lenses account for a relatively small part of the total waste.

Restriction proposal

Early this year, a substantial restriction proposal was presented to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) regarding PFAS.

Hence, the specialty contact lens market and specifically, RGP-lens wearers would be significantly impacted if this ban was implemented since the raw materials used for manufacturing RGP lenses would be banned.

Derogation request

EuromContact, an international organisation representing European contact lens manufacturers is actively working on data collection to aid a derogation request for RGP contact lenses which will be handed in to ECHA after the summer. Multilens supports EuromContact in this work by providing any needed data related to the use of RGP contact lenses and their materials.

An international united effort within the specialty contact lens market is currently happening and several experts within the area are confident in a possible acceptance of a derogation request. Multilens supports this effort in any way possible.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us!