

Meeting with stakeholders on PFAS restriction dossier

Short report to be shared with PFAS restriction group and the relevant stakeholder

Date: 3 February 2022

Place: Online (1 hour)

Reporting Member State:

- ☐ NL

Participants (names and organization):

- ☐ Member State: 5.1.2e (RIVM), 5.1.2e (RIVM).
- ☐ Stakeholder:
 - ☐ 5.1.2e (Arkema)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e (Arkema)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e (Arkema)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e (Arkema)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e (Arkema)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e)
 - ☐ 5.1.2e)

Role of stakeholder/company:

- ☐ PVDF producing company

Specific PFAS substance (if applicable):

- ☐ Fluoropolymers, PVDF

Specific subject (if applicable):

- ☐ PVDF fluoropolymer production (without PFAS polymerizations aids).

Stakeholder invited to provide the information presented in call for evidence or public consultation? n/a.

Report

Arkema invited RIVM for this meeting to update RIVM on several (on-going) studies in relation to PVDF. Last year (3 February 2021), Arkema also informed RIVM on PVDF and production without PFAS polymerisation aids.

5.1.2e mentioned the replacement of PFAS polymerisation aids by FSF (a non-fluorinated and non-persistent surfactant). By the end of 2024 all worldwide production location will be converted. At this moment, the transfer to PFAS free production is still to be done at the plant in Pierre-Bénite, which is rather related to regulations than to technical issues. According to 5.1.2e, PVDF polymers meet the OECD PLC criteria. 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e 5.1.2e mention the exponential growth of the PVDF capacity especially for the European EV battery market.

Several study results on the durability, ageing resistance, aerobic biodegradation (OECD 301F) and anaerobic biodegradation (ASTM D5511) of Kynar® FSF® PVDF were presented. According to Arkema, the study results show that PVDF is not biodegradable, is unaffected by ageing and is giving the most durable coating. Arkema continued with their initiatives on post industrial and post usage recycling. Results are expected in Q2 2022. Finally, Arkema mentioned a study to examine the risk, benefits and emissions of PVDF in some uses. The study is carried out by RPA and Arche, results also expected in Q2 2022.

In answering questions of RIVM, Arkema explained that no PFAS processing aids are used in processing PVDF. PVDF is produced as powder. The residue concentration of the monomer in the polymer is <50 ppb. PVDF itself is used in the process of producing PE and PP.

On questions of RIVM on by-products, such as R21 and R23 in the production chain of PTFE, Arkema indicated that the production of PVDF does not result in any byproducts.