

Safety vs. Regulation?

FPP4EU Collaboration Platform
Hybrid workshop 30 March 2023



EURATEX Members 2023 – 25 countries, 10 sector-specific organisations



**Partnership programme
with companies**

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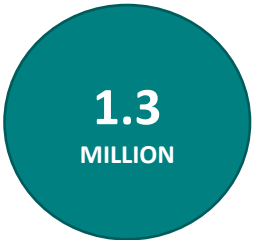


Textiles, insights

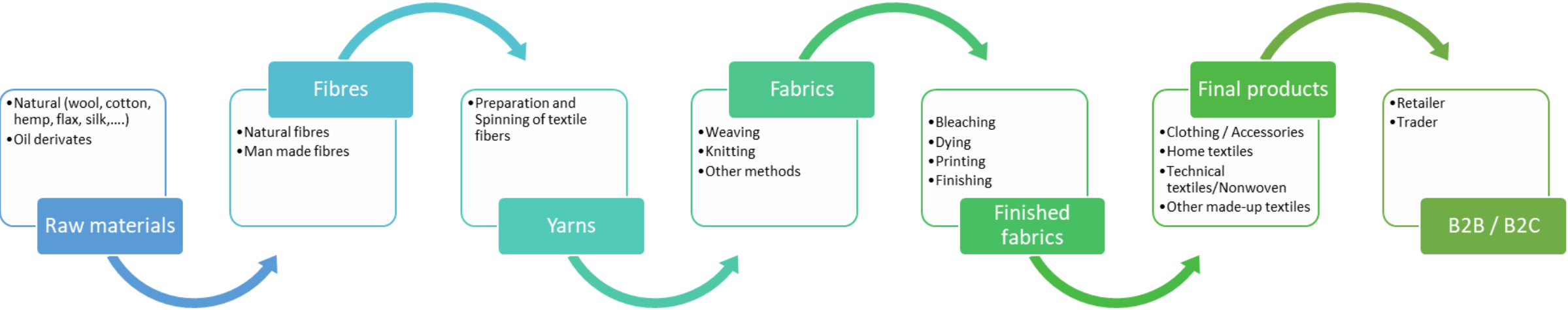
COMPANIES



EMPLOYMENT



TURNOVER



PFAS restriction and proposed derogations

Overview

- The European textile and apparel industry has a **diverse manufacturing** – clothing, home textiles, technical textiles, medical textiles, PPE etc.
- Mostly using PFHxA (C6 chemistry) – only technically feasible and available alternative to already restricted C8 that can deliver the needed **safety** and **performance standards** that require fluorinated substance finishing
- Water, oil, dirt and chemical repellence with a resistance to viruses and bacteria

Concern on interlink with PFHxA and PFAS restriction – need for clarity how these will be taken forward



PFAS restriction derogations

- Textiles used in personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Risk Category III (a) and (c)
- Textiles used in PPE in professional firefighting activities
 - Risk Category III (a) - (m)
 - No derogation for PPE and protective clothing designed for armed forces and in the maintenance of law and order and other emergency response workers
 - No derogation for high visibility clothing fulfilling the requirements of EN ISO 20471
- Wound treatment products and hernia meshes
 - Need for broader derogation for woven, knitted and nonwoven medical textiles as specified in Regulation (EU) 2017/745



PFAS restriction derogations

- Impregnation agents for re-impregnation of articles of the **PPE mentioned**
- Textiles for the use in filtration and separation media used in high performance air and liquid applications in industrial or professional settings that require a combination of water and oil repellence, **6.5 years**
- Textiles for the use in engine bays for noise and vibration insulation used in the **automotive industry**
- **Applications** affecting the proper functioning related to the safety of transport vehicles, and affecting the safety of operators, passengers or goods



What else is missing?

- Curtains for special applications (marine, public buildings, automotive, railways but also separation textiles in multibed rooms in hospitals, where curtains can be drawn)
- Carpets and rugs for special indoor and outdoor applications meeting requirements for long-life and high resistance to water/humidity and soiling
- Upholstery for outdoor applications, i.e. in hotels, amusement parks
- Transportation belts
- Textiles for building construction, e.g. membranes for light shoring/surface structure, reinforcement fabric, textile facade substructures, insulate material against cold and heat, solar protection textiles
- Construction products



EURATEX proposal

- Need to guarantee safety for the user – PPE Cat I-III, high visibility clothing, protective clothing designed for armed forces and in the maintenance of law and order and other emergency response workers, medical textiles
- Technical textiles with a clear minimum surface tension limit to ensure that only the products that truly need to deliver the needed safety and performance standards can be derogated

Ultimately not to regulate for the sake of regulating, but to develop a good restriction which takes EU forward and protects its citizens



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