

Meeting with stakeholders on PFAS restriction dossier

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

Date: 11 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 NRK
 - 5.1.2e – Federation NRK
 - 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e – Federation NRK – foil producers within NRK

Role of stakeholder/company:

- Federation NRK

Specific PFAS substance (if applicable):

- PFAS processing aids

Specific subject (if applicable):

- Use of PFAS processing aids in thin film plastic production and generic plastic production

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

Report

(Some) NRK members produce film for food packaging and thin film packaging in general. They process PE, PP for making film, using a processing aid. Those are the dominant plastics for (food) packaging. For production of trays they buy in film.

Key question for RIVM is the information need on tonnages and emissions of PFAS and availability of alternatives.

Blown film and cast film extrusion processes

Processing aids (PA) are added in small amounts of master batch - 0.2%. Therefore the bought plastic granules already contain (some) PFAS.

Some small number of final film (0.0xx1%) is PFAS: This seems to be a dilution factor from the Master Batch. Concentrations in factory undetectable. PE and PP film producers buy functionality and do not focus specifically on substances used for the functionality.

Processing aids does not enter the waste-water system, and production does not need water for cooling. Measurements focusing on PFAS did not give results above detection limit.

Processing aids are used in food and all film production. Without the PA the film optical quality is poor and the thickness increases.

Thin film was only produced when PFAS was brought in:

- Was 50-70 micron before PFAS
- Now 10-30 micron film

Benefit of reduced plastic use when using PFAS.

NRK were unsure if PFAS free processing aids exist – need to talk to masterbatch producers. NRK companies are too far downstream to have detailed knowledge and producers like Chemours and 3M likely are 'too high' in the value chain to have detailed information.

It is not clear for NRK if PFAS processing aids are also used in generic plastic production (so broader than plastic packaging production only).

Much packaging material brought in from outside the EU – significant quantity, but NRK does not have the information available to say how much. Plastics Europe likely has such numbers (but was contacted before).

Regarding the restriction RIVM briefly explains the broad scope and the high-over timelines.

Question:

Is a masterbatch nearly 100% of the plastic granules or is it a concentrate (the 0,2% mentioned) which is added to regular granules?