

Lessons learned from the PFOA restriction in textiles



Dunja Drmač
Sustainability Officer

DURATEX-FLAREX workshop
14 March, Kortrijk



EURATEX
VOICE OF THE EUROPEAN APPAREL
AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY



1.7 million 
177.000 
171 Bln. €

99% SMEs

From 1 to 9 persons employed	86%
From 10 to 19 persons employed	7%

TOP 10 EU PRODUCERS OF FASHION AND TEXTILE GOODS



20,832



1,979

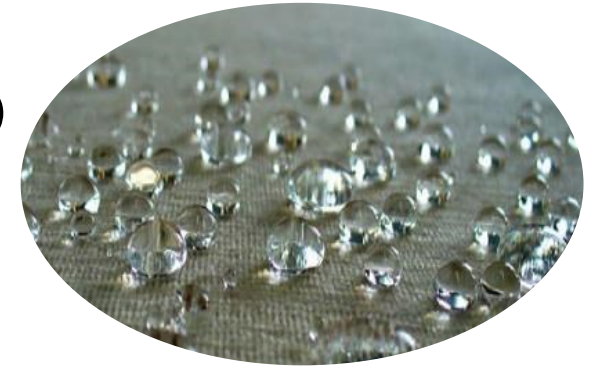


5,379 mil.



The case of PFOA restriction

1) Proposal to restrict PFOA, its salts and related substances (2014)



2) EC draft proposal (2016)
clothing, PPE, technical textiles are they all the same?

*how can a company meet performance requirements
from customers, safety standards or public
authorities ? "*

Firefighter uniform

≠

Baby's jacket

Draft Regulation, fall 2016

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply from:

(a) [*date - 5 years after entry into force of this Regulation*] to:

- (i) equipment used to manufacture semi-conductors;
- (ii) latex printing inks.

(b) [*date - 6 years after entry into force of this Regulation*] to:

- (i) textiles for the protection of workers that must meet durable water repellency (DWR) performance standards;
- (ii) membranes intended for use in medical textiles, filtration in water treatment, production processes and effluent treatment;
- (iii) plasma nano-coatings.

Adopted Regulation, summer 2017

Points 1 and 2 shall apply from:

(a) 4 July 2022 to:

- (i) equipment used to manufacture semi-conductors;
- (ii) latex printing inks.

(b) 4 July 2023 to:

- (i) textiles for the protection of workers from risks to their health and safety;
- (ii) membranes intended for use in medical textiles, filtration in water treatment, production processes and effluent treatment;
- (iii) plasma nano-coatings.

(c) 4 July 2032 to medical devices other than implantable medical devices within the scope of Directive 93/42/EEC.

Towards PFOA replacement – what have we done so far

How to use derogations, EURATEX steps:

- Replacement Workshops, bringing experts and SMEs (Barcelona, March)
- EURATEX welcomes ECHA Strategy on replacement
- Learning about ongoing research, e.g. CENTEXBEL, other projects..



20 PR - EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP IN BARCELONA

Picture source: MIDWOR



Substitution to safer chemicals

Companies in the EU are increasingly substituting away from hazardous chemicals and manufacturing processes to safer chemicals and greener technologies. This can bring substantial benefits to the companies, the environment and the health of workers and consumers. It can also have a significant positive impact on the implementation of a circular economy.



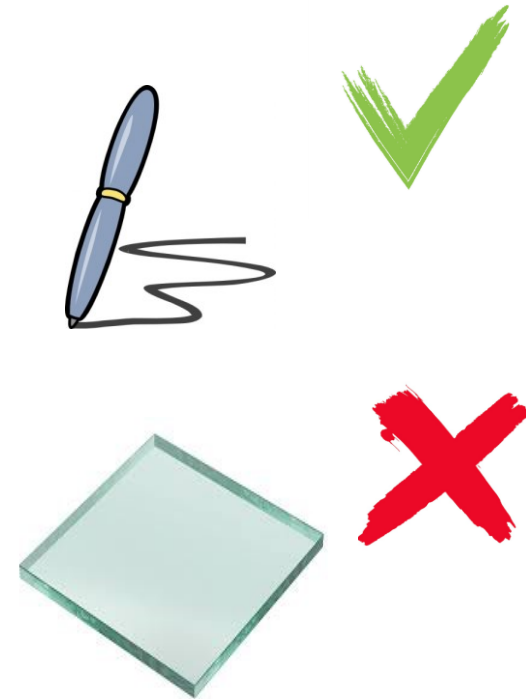
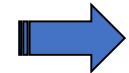
CONTACT
 For general questions or suggestions o substitution related matters contact substitution@echa.europa.eu



Where does an alternative work?

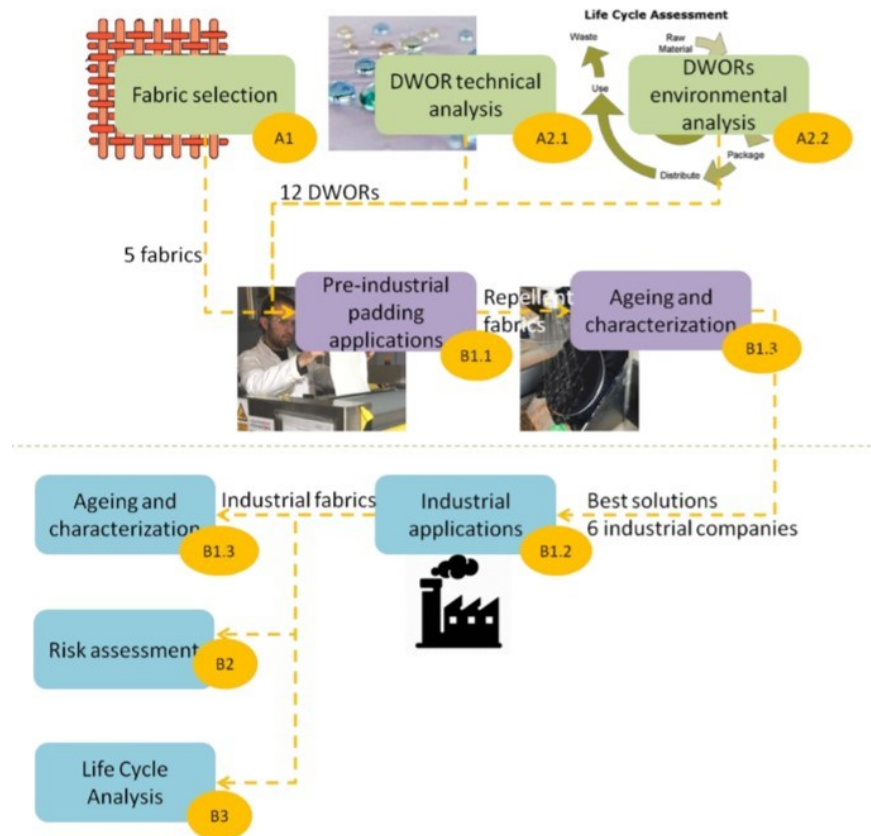


Picture source: MIDWOR project



Multiple tryouts...

the contribution of the LIFE financial
instrument of the European Commission



Picture source: MIDWOR project



Feature: The extreme challenge of PFCs

7 March 2019 / Global, Retail, Textiles & apparel

Source: Chemical Watch

Conclusion:

- No one solution, sector-specific approach
- Testing alternatives in all applications, considering reaction with other chemicals... → *more of this type of research in the future*
- Collaboration across supply chain, avoiding regrettable substitution

Thank you!

Dunja Drmač
Sustainability Officer

dunja.drmac@euratex.eu

 @dunja_drmac