PFAS

Purpose

As public health concern has grown over the use of PFAS, Ecolab is often asked questions regarding its use of these substances in our chemical products. Ecolab's PFAS position is part of our commitment to provide clear and transparent product information to customers and stakeholders.

Ecolab and its subsidiaries design and produce solutions to improve operational efficiency and minimize impact to vital resources – including human health and the environment. Although perfluorinated substances offer many unique properties for a wide variety of product types with varying technical and toxicological properties, almost none of these substances are relevant to our chemical solutions portfolio. PFAS and other potentially bio-persistent or potentially bio-accumulating substances are specifically evaluated as part of our rigorous regulatory and sustainability review embedded into our product development and new product introduction processes.

Scope

This position applies globally to Ecolab products and solutions.

Position

- **By end of 2026, all chemical products manufactured by Ecolab[1] with intentionally[2] added PFAS will be removed from our global portfolio.**
- Ecolab does not synthesize carbon-fluorine bonds in our production processes.
- Ecolab offers technologies that remove PFAS from water.[3]
- Fluoropolymers may be present in seals, valves and components within select Ecolab equipment or packaging where it is critical for safety and chemical containment. Technical alternatives to fluoropolymers in select equipment and packaging components will be explored when commercially available. Ecolab will replace these materials when a robust technical alternative has been identified and proven to meet performance requirements.
- PFAS is present in registered pesticides purchased by Ecolab. Ecolab is requesting suppliers develop PFAS-free alternatives.
- Ecolab recommends suppliers disclose contaminants ≥0.1wt% in our sourced raw materials. By end of 2026, chemical raw materials used in the manufacturing of Ecolab chemical products will no longer be sourced if PFAS is identified.
- Currently, there is no globally uniform regulatory definition of PFAS. As a global company, Ecolab applies the definitions that are applicable in the respective jurisdictions coupled with our own product-specific evaluations based on the OECD definition. Ecolab remains compliant with all local regulatory requirements in the regions we serve.

- Among products manufactured[1] by Ecolab, only 0.04% of Ecolab's 2024 revenue was from chemical products containing intentionally[2] added PFAS substances.

Explanation of Key Terms

PFAS | Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of thousands of chemicals with unique physicochemical properties that have in common the presence of carbon-fluorine (CF) bonds.

OECD | The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organisation in which representatives of 38 industrialised countries in North and South America, Europe and the Asia and Pacific region, as well as the European Commission, meet to co-ordinate and harmonise policies, discuss issues of mutual concern, and work together to respond to international problems

OECD - PFAS Definition | PFASs are defined as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it), i.e. with a few noted exceptions, any chemical with at least a perfluorinated methyl group (–CF3) or a perfluorinated methylene group (–CF2–) is a PFAS.

Responsibility

Ecolab Business Segments are responsible for the implementation of this position.

Footnotes and References

- [1] Ecolab purchases, but does not manufacture, registered pesticides containing PFAS.
- [2] '*Intentionally added PFAS*' means PFAS added to a chemical product formulation to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, quality or to perform a specific function.
- [3] There are multiple sites using Ecolab ion exchange technology to remove PFAS from water to levels below applicable regulations. Ion exchange is recognized by the US EPA as an effective PFAS treatment technology.
- OECD (2021), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 61, OECD Publishing, Paris.

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