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Industry Stewardship Efforts



PFAS

A Broad Chemical Class



- PFAS are a broad class of substances with a wide range of physical, chemical, and biological properties and a diverse set of important applications
 - a class-based approach to regulating PFAS is unscientific and inappropriate
- Anderson *et al.* 2022 – Grouping of PFAS
 - persistence alone is not sufficient for grouping PFAS for the purposes of assessing health risk
 - definition of appropriate subgroups can only be defined on a case-by-case manner
 - A tiered approach combining multiple lines of evidence - viable means for addressing PFAS lacking analytical/toxicological studies

PFAS

A Broad Chemical Class



- Defense Dept - Report on Critical Uses
 - “critical to the national security of the United States”
- SEMI – Comments on Policy for new PFAS
 - “complete shutdown of domestic semiconductor manufacturing operations”
- AdvaMed – Congressional Testimony
 - “hard to imagine the medical industry without the many important products that contain fluoropolymers”

DOD Report on Critical Uses of PFAS

Fluoropolymers

- Munitions
- Energy storage & batteries
- Micro-electronics and semiconductors
- Hoses, seals, gaskets, cables, etc
- Resins for composites & coatings

Other PFAS

- Refrigeration, AC, and thermal control
- Fire suppression
- Electronic/dielectric fluids
- Lubricants
- Precision cleaning
- Metalworking, casting, & fabrication
- Insulation/foam blowing



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- ACC and its member companies support –
 - prioritization of groups and subgroups of PFAS for testing
 - focus on hazard and potential for exposure
 - use of tiered-testing and application of principles of read-across, when appropriate
 - Agency efforts to collect available information prior to issuing a test order
- Voluntary stewardship program initiated in mid-2000
 - phase out legacy PFAS
 - develop next-generation substances



Voluntary Stewardship Program

- Established in 2006 by EPA and 8 PFAS manufacturers
 - cease manufacture and use of PFOS and PFOA and related chemicals
 - conduct enhanced testing and regulatory review of new PFAS chemistry before being permitted on the market
 - resulted in >\$700 million in R&D
- Most PFAS approved since the mid-2000s are subject to consent orders
 - including testing requirements and use restrictions



Framework for Review of PFAS PMNs

- Released without notice and comment
- Concludes that most PFAS are “unlikely to receive a determination of ‘not likely’ to present an unreasonable risk”
 - “large body of evidence that most PFAS are PBT chemicals”
- Uses expanded definition for PFAS
 - No longer specifies that R groups cannot be hydrogen
 - Includes substances that are not persistent
- Particularly concerning given the categorical ineligibility for LVE or LoREX exemptions