

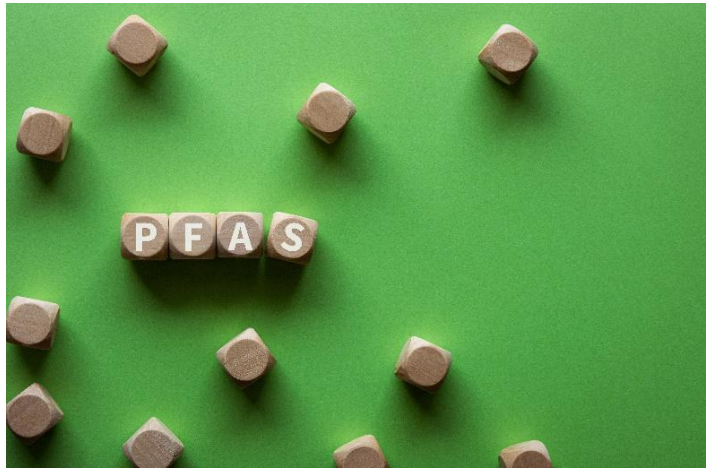
E.U. PFAS REACH restriction enters decisive phase for adhesive tapes sector

What it means for the European adhesive tapes value chain

Europe's proposed restriction on PFAS is entering a critical phase. As regulators advance their assessments and open consultation on key elements, the implications for the adhesive tapes value chain are becoming clearer — and more immediate.

The European Union's proposed restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under REACH is one of the most far-reaching chemicals initiatives to date. Originally proposed in 2023, it aims to minimise emissions of PFAS by restricting their manufacture, use and placing on the market, whether on their own, in mixtures or in articles.

Since then, the scope has continued to evolve. In 2025, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) expanded the proposal to include additional sectors, among them sealing, machinery and technical textiles — all areas where adhesive tapes play a role. At the same time, regulators are exploring limited pathways for continued use in essential applications under strictly controlled conditions.



The direction of travel is clear: PFAS use is expected to be significantly reduced, with only narrowly defined and well-justified exceptions remaining.

A broader compliance challenge

For industry, the proposed thresholds represent a fundamental shift. With limits set at extremely low levels, compliance is no longer limited to whether PFAS are intentionally used in a formulation. It increasingly requires understanding whether PFAS may be present anywhere in the product, process or supply chain.

For the adhesive tapes value chain, this expands the focus well beyond formulations. PFAS may be linked to coatings, release systems and additives, but also to manufacturing equipment, processing aids and other less visible inputs. As a result, companies are beginning to look more closely at how materials are sourced, how products are manufactured and where trace presence may arise in practice.

Implications across the value chain

PFAS are associated with a range of applications relevant to adhesive tapes, from high-performance backings and specialised coatings to technical laminates and sealing solutions. This means that the restriction has the potential to affect multiple stages of the value chain, from raw materials through to end-use sectors such as electronics, automotive and medical applications.

At the same time, the regulatory picture remains dynamic. With committee opinions now published and consultation under way, key elements of the proposal — including the balance between restrictions, derogations and controlled-use provisions — are still being defined.

Afera supports the industry response

Afera continues to monitor the PFAS file closely and to support its Members in understanding and preparing for its implications. Through its Regulatory Affairs Working Group and dedicated PFAS task force, the Association is helping to translate regulatory developments into practical insight for the adhesive tapes industry.

As the process advances, the focus is shifting from regulatory development to implementation. For companies operating in the adhesive tapes value chain, early assessment and preparation will be critical in navigating what is set to become one of the most consequential chemicals restrictions in Europe.

A more detailed analysis of the restriction — including its technical scope, sector-specific implications and practical guidance for the adhesive tapes value chain — is available to Afera Members in the Members-only section [here](#). The extended article provides a deeper, structured perspective on the file and supports Members in translating a complex regulatory development into clear, actionable next steps. Organisations interested in gaining access to this and other Member-exclusive resources are encouraged to learn more about our industry collective and [Afera Membership](#).
