

# Germany



## Key Link

- [PFC-Portal: Start | Umweltbundesamt](#) (site available in German only).

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## Overview of Risk Reduction Approaches

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Germany addresses chemical risk management mainly through EU regulations and is engaging in dialogues with stakeholders to exchange information and signal to industry concerns related to PFASs and to convey information to the public. Germany developed threshold and guide values to limit the amount of PFCAs and PFASs in drinking water and sludge and developed a background document Do without per- and polyfluorinated chemicals and prevent their discharge into the environment. In addition, the German Federal Environment Agency published an issue of the “What Matters” magazine which is dedicated to inform the general public about PFASs (see [magazine](#)).

The German Human Biomonitoring commission has decided to set HBM I values for PFOA and PFOS in blood plasma of 2 ng PFOA/ml and 5 ng PFOS/ml based on literature review (see [report](#)). The HBM I value represents the concentration of a substance in a body matrix below which, according to the Commission’s current assessment, adverse health effects are not expected and therefore, no exposure reduction measures are necessary. The Federal States of Germany proposed limit values for groundwater for several PFAS. The German Federal Environment Agency has been looking at PFAS in drinking water and has thereby derived drinking water guide values or health orientation values for certain PFASs (see [report](#)). The report is currently being revised and an updated version is expected for 2023/2024. As a supplement to the report the German Federal Environment Agency published in 2019 an opinion on a temporary action value for PFOA and PFOS (see [Opinion](#)). In summer 2023, the amended federal soil protection regulation (Bundesbodenschutzverordnung) will be enacted which sets PFAS limit-values for the pathway soil-groundwater.

Germany, together with Norway & Sweden nominated several PFAS to be identified as substances of very high concern (SVHC) within the EU (see table below). Furthermore, Germany proposed to restrict the manufacture or placing on the market of undecafluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), its salts and related substances within the EU (see [restriction proposal](#)). Finally, Germany is part of the group of five countries which proposed to restrict the manufacture, placing on the market and use of all PFASs within the EU (see [restriction proposal](#)).

**Table with Key Elements of Risk Reduction Approaches**

Action	Path taken	BEPs Implemented	Category of PFASs addressed	Articles covered?	Life cycle stage(s) addressed	Method of approach	Public-private partnership encouraged?	Level of constraint
<p>Dialogue with stakeholders to exchange information and convey concern re PFASs, and provide information to public</p> <p>Link to <a href="#">Do without perfluorinated chemicals and prevent their discharge into the environment (2009)</a></p> <p>Link to <a href="#">What Matters 1-2020: PFAS. Come to stay (2020)</a></p>	Increase awareness for industry and public	No information available	All PFASs	Yes	Whole life cycle	Dialogue	Yes	None
Threshold and guide values for different media, e.g. drinking water and sludge	Manage exposure	Water management, off-gas and solid waste management	Perfluoroalkyl carboxylic and Sulfonic acids	No	Product use; Product disposal	Regulatory	No	Water treatment measures Monitoring
HBM-1 values	Limit exposure, awareness rising		PFOA and PFOS	No		Analysis	No	None
Limit values for groundwater	Limit exposure	No	Short and long-chain PFAS	No	No	Analysis	No	None

Nomination as SVHC

Limit exposure,  
awareness raising

Not  
applicable

C<sub>11</sub>-  
C<sub>14</sub> PFCA  
(GER,  
2012)  
C<sub>8</sub>-PFCA  
(GER &  
NOR, 2013)  
C<sub>9</sub>PFCA  
(GER &  
SWE, 2015)  
C<sub>10</sub>PFCA  
(GER &  
SWE, 2016)

Yes

Whole life  
cycle

Regulator  
y

No

Substances  
on candidate-  
list:  
information  
requirements  
Substances in  
Annex XIV  
(REACH):  
only  
authorized  
uses allowed

Restriction of manufacture  
and placing on the market  
(decided)

Limit exposure

Not applicable

PFOA its  
salts and  
related  
substances  
(GER &  
NOR, 2017)  
C<sub>9</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> PFCA  
their salts and  
related  
substances (GER  
& SWE, 2021)

Yes

Whole life  
cycle

Regulator  
y

No

Restriction  
with  
derogations

Restriction of manufacture  
and placing on the market  
(proposal, decision pending)

Limit exposure

Not applicable

PFHxA, its  
salts and  
related

Yes

Whole life  
cycle

Regulator  
y

No

Restriction  
with potential  
derogations

substances  
(2019)

All PFASs (GER,  
NL, NOR, SWE,  
DK, 2023)

(depending on  
outcome)