



**December 2023**

### **Topic: PFAS ban planned by the EU**

The proposal to ban PFAS presented by the European Chemicals Agency ECHA envisages banning all compounds in this substance class, which contains well over 10,000 substances, with transitional periods of between 18 months and 12 years. The material PTFE (CAS number 9002-84-0) would also be affected by a blanket ban! PTFE is a polymeric PFAS variant that has even been categorised as harmless to health by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). The well-known manufacturers of PTFE have undertaken to completely dispense with the use of PFOA / APFO. For this reason, the use of PTFE is not considered critical.

As manufacturers of fabric expansion joints, we rely on PTFE for the vast majority of fabric expansion joints we use. The unique properties of PTFE, its almost unlimited chemical and high thermal resistance and safe processability make PTFE indispensable in fabric expansion joint construction. Without the use of PTFE fabric expansion joints in chemically aggressive environments, for example in waste incineration plants, power plants, foundries, flue gas cleaning systems and many other industrial applications such as in the chemical, pharmaceutical and food industries, their operation would be unthinkable. There is no universal or equivalent alternative to PTFE!

A blanket, Europe-wide ban on PFAS, which would include a ban on PTFE, threatens technical progress in many areas and the existence of many European companies.

This approach also applies to fluoropolymers such as FKM.

The reasons mentioned require a more differentiated view of the planned PFAS ban and the exclusion of non-critical substances such as PTFE and FKM from the proposed ban.