

Information regarding PFOS and IMO in Fire Fighting foam

IMO – the International Maritime Organization – is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. IMO's work supports the UN SDGs.

Prohibiting use of fire-fighting foams containing PFOS

The Sub-Committee finalized draft amendments to SOLAS chapter II-2 and the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes to prohibit the use of fire-fighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). The regulations say that extinguishing media containing such foams shall be delivered to appropriate shore-based reception facilities when removed from the ship. [PFOS](#) is harmful to the environment.

All ship that are sailing under EU Flag must comply to EU legislation regarding PFAS in firefighting foam. For IMO and the latest of the PFAS legislation is that effectively from 1 January 2026 the storage and use of perfluoro-octane sulfonic acid -PFOS in fire fighting media onboard vessels will be prohibited by the ANNEX 2 Resolution MSC.532(107). Existing ships must replace PFOS-containing systems by their first survey after this date. This prohibition will protect the crew against exposure to dangerous substances that are used in fire-fighting systems and will minimize the negative consequences on the environment.

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) sub-committee on ship systems and equipment (SSE) met for the 8th session from 28 February to 4 March. Amongst other decisions, the sub-committee finalised prohibition of perfluoro-octane sulphonic acid (PFOS) to be used or stored on board as part of ships' fire-fighting systems.

According to ANNEX 1 draft unified interpretation of solas regulation ii-2/10.11 regarding extinguishing media containing pfos is the limitations is: **10 mg/kg (0.001% by weight)**.



ANNEX 2 RESOLUTION MSC.532(107) (adopted on 8 June 2023) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

CHAPTER II-2 CONSTRUCTION – FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE DETECTION AND FIRE EXTINCTION

Part A General

Regulation 1

Application

2. Applicable requirements to existing ships

3. The following new paragraph 2.10 is added after existing paragraph 2.9, together with the associated footnote:
"2.10 Ships constructed before 1 January 2026 shall comply with regulation 10.11.2, as adopted by resolution MSC.532(107), not later than the date of the first survey* on or after 1 January 2026.

Part C

Suppression of fire

Regulation 10

Fire fighting

4 The following new paragraph 11 is added after existing section 10:

"11 Fire-extinguishing media restrictions

The purpose of this paragraph is to protect persons on board against exposure to dangerous substances used in firefighting, as well as to minimize the impact of fire-extinguishing media that are deemed detrimental to the environment.

11.1 Application

This regulation applies to ships constructed on or after 1 January 2026.

11.2 General

11.2.1 The prohibited substances in this regulation shall be delivered to appropriate shore-based reception facilities when removed from the ship.

11.2.2 Use or storage of extinguishing media containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) shall be prohibited.

In the meantime, it was agreed that when substances containing PFOS are removed from the ship, they should be moved to appropriate reception facilities.

Note that PFOS is restricted under the Stockholm convention as a persistent organic pollutants (POPs)-all countries that comply to this regulation has already banned PFOS. In the ECHA legislation , there is new limits for PFOS which is 25ppb of PFOS and its salts and 1000 ppb of related substances.

All Dafo Fomtec fluorinated foams have never contained any intentionally added PFOS. In case of an analysis, the result will be below detection level. All Dafo Fomtec's AFFF, ARC, FFFP, FP, F products complies to IMO Resolution MSC.532(107) in regards to PFOS and PFOA restriction.

Further all Dafo Fomtec fluorinated foams manufactured from 2016 are manufactured with short-chain C6 fluorochemicals, and any PFOA is at contamination levels, as per EU 2017/1000.

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