



# PFAS

PFAS chemicals have been of increasing concern for governments and organizations for several years. Michigan and MAIN Manufacturing have been investigating the use of PFAS chemicals for some time now. PFAS chemicals are currently being used in a multitude of applications and it would have profound life threatening effects to ban them from some applications. While there are over 14,000 PFAS chemicals, most organizations are dividing PFAS chemicals into chemicals of greater concern and chemicals of lesser concern. Many different groupings exist for these items of concern. The State of Michigan lists 13 for water and more for manufacturing. All agree that not all of these chemicals are of equal concern.

MAIN has always evaluated the materials we use and supply for safety. MAIN's operation does not intentionally add any PFAS chemicals to the parts being sent to customers. We are a small company and all of our employees are exposed to the materials that we use. MAIN started a specific review of PFAS materials a while ago, starting with our fire extinguishers and then we expanded it to a general review. MAIN's approach is to first contact our suppliers for items going to our customers; packaging materials, boxes, steels of various forms and grades, coatings and preservatives, O-ring, screws and washers, etc., and reviewing the SDS sheets. This phase has been completed. We are researching items involving the highest exposure rate and starting with the chemicals of highest concern. So far we have found that the only products that have intentionally added PFAS chemicals are the O-rings made of fluoropolymer material (not all O-rings). These fluoropolymer O-rings do not contain perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), the items currently considered of high concern. For O-rings not called out by the customer, MAIN's default is Buna-N which is not a fluoropolymer. MAIN may send out materials that contain PFAS chemicals if requested by our customer, i.e., if requesting a Viton O-ring or others. Our customers are the closest to the application and are the best source for determining the risk/benefit analysis necessary. MAIN will not use any polymers of high concern internally unless no other commercially available alternative exists and then only with continuing appropriate precautions and will continue to work to eliminate all PFAS materials.

Thank you,

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