

Freudenberg-NOK Sealing Technologies  
46790 East Anchor Ct. Plymouth, MI 48170

Plymouth, MI  
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## RE: Comment on Chapter 90: Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

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### 1. Introduction

Freudenberg Sealing Technologies (FST) is a leading supplier of advanced sealing products for customers in the automotive and general industry. In researching, developing, and introducing innovative product and process solutions, the company benefits from 175 years of engineering and materials experience. The focus has always been on the technological demands and requirements of our customers.

Since the development of the Simmerring® rotary shaft seal in 1929, FST has continuously expanded its portfolio of industrial seals and components, offering a large variety of technological solutions that address critical factors such as performance, durability, friction, emissions, and material compatibility. In addition to a wide range of in-house developed, high-quality, engineered sealing solutions, the company also works with its customers to design and validate their specific sealing systems.

With the world's largest range of seals, FST offers sealing products for everything from dental drills and filling lines to wind turbines, aircraft, and automotive transmissions. Seals are often small components, usually invisible but essential for the smooth functioning and long service life of the system in which they are installed. In all application areas and industries, the company's unique materials expertise and continuous innovation create the basis for continued customer satisfaction. The company operates at 60 locations worldwide with appr. 13,000 employees. Sales in 2023 amounted to 2.7 billion dollars. In North America, FST operates 18 sites with the contributions of 4,700 associates and in 2023 generated sales of 1.1 billion dollars.

FST fully supports all efforts to improve protection of human health and the environment from risks posed by chemicals. Preventive health care, environmental protection, occupational safety, the safety of machines, production lines and processes, and product safety as well as good corporate citizenship are of great importance at FST.

FST aims to continuously reduce its environmental impact throughout the entire value chain. While developing new products and technologies safe and environmentally sound manufacturing, utilization, and disposal practices are adopted. In addition to this, FST is constantly focusing its efforts on reducing the environmental impact by using natural resources more efficiently, lowering emissions, saving energy, water, and other operating materials, as well as optimizing transportation processes. Waste is handled in accordance with the

principle that prevention is better than recycling is better than disposal. Residual substances that can neither be avoided nor recycled are disposed of in a responsible manner and in accordance with national regulations. FST's management systems comply with internationally recognized standards.

## **2. CUU Proposed Timeline**

FST is concerned about the restriction limiting CUU proposals to a maximum of 36 months before the product's sale prohibition takes effect. In many industries we serve, development and manufacturing timelines are extensive and often exceed the proposed three-year limit. Product development can begin years before the final sale date, factoring in formulation development, testing, and both customer and regulatory approval. Considering these extended timelines, FST respectfully requests that CUU proposals be permitted up to 60 months in advance of the product's sales prohibition.

## **3. Duration of CUU Determination**

For the reasons stated above, FST also supports CUU determinations being valid for a period longer than five years, if justified. Given product development timelines and needs, extended CUU determinations would provide greater certainty. Given the limited duration of a CUU determination, having a streamlined renewal process would also be welcome, reducing the burden of the CUU determination process for manufacturers in scope.

## **4. Legal Obligation of Manufacturer to Report**

Due to the nature and complexity of supply chains it is possible that the manufacturer, when selling its goods e.g. to its customers, service providers or distributors, does not have the required information on whether the delivered goods will be installed in a product or component that is currently exempted from the PFAS prohibition or not. That means the manufacturers, as suppliers further down the supply chain, cannot control the risk and thus be liable as they do not know to which customers, states and countries the distributors, importers and retailers are further selling its goods. With this in mind, FST requests additional consideration be given to manufacturers of products with multiple end uses, where the end use of the product is unknown to the manufacturer.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If there are any additional questions or discussion regarding FNSTs comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.