

Ontex PFAS Holding Statement

December 2024

At Ontex, the safety of our products is a key priority. We conduct rigorous testing across the entire product life cycle—beginning with raw material validation, continuing through manufacturing and finished product testing. All raw materials used in our products are carefully selected to meet safety and regulatory requirements for the lawful placing of absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) on the market, including baby care, adult care, and feminine care products. Each material is screened and approved by an independent Eurotox Registered Toxicologist, accredited by the German Association for Pharmacology and Toxicology (DGPT).

We can confirm that our testing shows no detectable PFAS in our products. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) serve no functional purpose within our absorbent hygiene products. Additionally, our testing confirms the absence of PFAS above trace levels, ensuring there is no exposure risk to consumers.

Regulatory Context

On February 7, 2023, European Member States introduced a proposal to restrict PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which is expected to evolve into a complete ban. This restriction will cover around 10,000 substances, due to their persistence in the environment and potential negative effects on human health. In the U.S., California law AB 2515 also bans the manufacture, distribution, sale, or offering for sale of menstrual products containing regulated PFAS. While the U.S. list of regulated PFAS may differ from the European list, the growing global regulatory focus on PFAS, often referred to as "forever chemicals," continues to intensify.

Ontex's Position

Ontex has actively screened for PFAS, including Perfluorooctane Sulfonates (PFOS) and its precursors such as Pentachlorophenol (PCP), for many years. Based on evidence from our suppliers, we can confirm:

- PFAS are not intentionally added to any Ontex product and detection is unlikely above trace levels.
- PFAS do not serve any functional purpose in our absorbent hygiene products.

In addition, as part of our commitment to product safety, Ontex requires all raw materials to meet Oeko-Tex Standard 100, which prohibits the use of PFAS in baby textiles under its 2023 update.

Ongoing Efforts & Transparency

Ontex continues to prioritize transparency across our supply chain. We have requested our suppliers to investigate potential sources of PFAS, including unintended presence, and to seek alternatives where necessary. This investigation is ongoing. Recent tests on our products have confirmed PFAS levels below 1 ppb, far below the detection limits outlined in upcoming global regulations. Packaging materials are also under review as part of our comprehensive safety assessment.

Collaboration and Advocacy

Ontex is an active member of EDANA (European Diaper and Nonwovens Association) and BAHP (The Center for Baby and Hygiene Products). These associations are closely monitoring the evolving regulations related to PFAS, and Ontex remains committed to ensuring our products continue to meet safety and regulatory standards.

For More Information

Please visit <u>our website</u> for detailed information regarding our product safety standards.