

POPs: POPs Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1021), explained

The POPs Regulation prohibits the manufacturing, placing on the market and use of the 32 persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex I, tolerating only trace contaminants, and requires waste above the Annex IV limits to be destroyed. It has applied since 15 July 2019; the newest delegated act adds chlorpyrifos from 30 September 2026.

Reviewed 24 September 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 14 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Regulation (EU) 2019/1021	Act type	Regulation
In force	15 July 2019	Applies from	15 July 2019
Amended by	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/784, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1203, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1204, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/115, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/277, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2291, Regulation (EU) 2022/2400, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/866, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1608, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2555, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2570, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/718, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1399, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/843, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1930, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1482, Regulation (EU) 2025/2457, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1423	Enforced by	National competent authorities designated under Article 19 enforce the regulation, coordinated through the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement at the European Chemicals Agency and with the market-surveillance powers of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, whose Annex I lists Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 (read as Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 since the recast repealed it); in Denmark Miljøstyrelsen's chemicals inspection (Kemikalieinspektionen) supervises under lov om kemikalier (kemikalieloven, lovbekendtgørelse nr. 1200 af 25. september 2025).
CELEX	32019R1021		

Key dates

20 June 2019	Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Regulation (EC) No 850/2004	title
15 July 2019	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 169 of 25 June 2019; Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 repealed and references to it read as references to the recast	Art. 21 and Art. 22
15 October 2019	Deadline for Member States to inform the Commission of the competent authorities responsible for administration and enforcement, three months after entry into force	Art. 19
4 July 2020	PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds listed in Annex I by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/784, with an unintentional-trace limit of 0,025 mg/kg for PFOA and its salts and 1 mg/kg for PFOA-related compounds	Art. 2 and Annex, points 1 and 2
16 July 2020	Deadline for Member States to notify their penalty rules to the Commission	Art. 14
3 December 2020	End of the transitional derogation for PFOA in non-implantable	Annex I, Part A, PFOA entry, point 9

medical devices,
latex printing inks
and plasma nano-
coatings

10 June 2023 Regulation (EU) Art. 3 and Annex

2022/2400 applies:
new Annex IV waste
limits including 500
mg/kg for the sum of
PBDEs, 1 500 mg/kg
for SCCPs, 5 µg/kg
for PCDD/PCDF and
dioxin-like PCBs, 500
mg/kg for HBCDD,
and new rows for
pentachlorophenol,
dicofol, PFOA and
PFHxS

18 August 2023 Delegated Regulation Art. 2 and Annex

(EU) 2023/866
applies: the 1 mg/kg
limit for PFOA in
PTFE micropowders
expires except for
transport and
treatment to reduce
the PFOA content,
and the exemption
for PFOA in PTFE and
PVDF manufacture is
deleted

28 August 2023 PFHxS, its salts and Art. 2 and Annex

PFHxS-related
compounds listed in
Annex I by Delegated
Regulation (EU)
2023/1608 with
limits of 0,025 mg/kg
and 1 mg/kg

31 December 2023 The 5 µg/kg Annex IV Art. 21a(1)

limit for PCDD/PCDF
and dioxin-like PCBs
applies to fly ashes
from biomass units
for heat and power
production; 10 µg/kg
applied until 30
December 2023

17 October 2024	Delegated Regulations (EU) 2024/2555 and 2024/2570 in force: HBCDD unintentional-trace limit lowered from 100 mg/kg to 75 mg/kg, and methoxychlor listed with a limit of 0,01 mg/kg	Art. 2 and Annex; Art. 2 and Annex
1 January 2025	The 5 µg/kg Annex IV limit for PCDD/PCDF and dioxin-like PCBs applies to ashes and soot from private households; 15 µg/kg for PCDD/PCDF applied until 31 December 2024	Art. 21a(2)
4 August 2025	UV-328 listed in Annex I by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/843 with an unintentional-trace limit of 100 mg/kg and exemptions for motor vehicles, industrial coatings, blood collection tubes, polarisers, photographic paper, aircraft and spare parts	Art. 2 and Annex
15 October 2025	Dechlorane Plus listed in Annex I by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1930 with a limit of 1 000 mg/kg until 15 April 2028 and exemptions for aerospace, defence, medical imaging, radiotherapy and spare parts	Art. 2 and Annex

17 November 2025	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1482 in force: the sum of tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta- and decaBDE in mixtures and articles is limited to 10 mg/kg, with a derogation of 500 mg/kg for recovered material	Art. 2 and Annex
3 December 2025	The PFOS unintentional-trace limits of 0,025 mg/kg for PFOS and its salts and 1 mg/kg for PFOS-related compounds apply, and the derogation for PFOA in fire-fighting foam already installed in systems ends	Art. 2; Annex I, Part A, PFOA entry, point 6
30 December 2025	The PBDE sum limit for mixtures and articles made of or containing recovered material, and for toys and childcare products from recovered material, falls from 500 mg/kg to 350 mg/kg; the Annex IV waste limit for the PBDE sum falls to 350 mg/kg	Annex I, Part A, PBDE entries, point 2(b) and 2(c); Annex IV, PBDE row, point (b)
31 December 2025	Deadline for Member States to identify and remove from use equipment containing more than 0,005 % PCBs in volumes above 0,05 dm ³	Annex I, Part A, PCB entry
1 January 2026	Regulation (EU) 2025/2457 in force: the Agency reports on waste limits at the Commission's	Art. 4 and Art. 5; Annex I, Part A, HBCDD entry, point 1

request, Annexes IV and V are amended by delegated act, and the delegation of power runs for five years from this date; Commission review of the HBCDD exemptions due

28 August 2026	Deadline for the Commission to review the 0,1 mg/kg limit for PFHxS in concentrated fire-fighting foam mixtures	Annex I, Part A, PFHxS entry, point 3
30 September 2026	Chlorpyrifos listed in Annex I by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1423 without specific exemptions and with an unintentional-trace limit of 0,01 mg/kg	Art. 2 and Annex
31 December 2026	Deadline for the Commission's first review of the derogation for perfluorooctyl bromide containing perfluorooctyl iodide in pharmaceutical production; then every four years until 31 December 2036	Annex I, Part A, PFOA entry, point 7
17 May 2027	The PBDE sum limit for toys and products for children's seating, sleep, hygiene, feeding, transport and protection made of or containing recovered material falls to 10 mg/kg	Annex I, Part A, PBDE entries, point 2(c)
4 August 2027	The unintentional-trace limit for UV-328 falls to 10 mg/kg	Annex I, Part A, UV-328 entry, point 1(b)
30 December 2027	The PBDE sum limit for recovered	Annex I, Part A, PBDE entries, point 2(b); Annex IV

material falls to 200 mg/kg and the Annex IV waste limit to 200 mg/kg; deadline for the Commission to review the Annex IV limits for SCCPs, PCDD/PCDF and dioxin-like PCBs, HBCDD, PFOA and PFHxS

15 April 2028	The unintentional-trace limit for Dechlorane Plus falls from 1 000 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg after this date; the Commission assesses the aerospace, medical imaging and radiotherapy exemptions by 1 April 2028	Annex I, Part A, Dechlorane Plus entry, points 1 and 3
3 August 2028	End of the specific limits of 1 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg for PFOA in fire-fighting foam already installed in systems	Annex I, Part A, PFOA entry, point 4a
4 August 2029	The unintentional-trace limit for UV-328 falls to 1 mg/kg	Annex I, Part A, UV-328 entry, point 1(c)
26 February 2030	Expiry of the Dechlorane Plus exemptions for aerospace, space and defence, medical imaging and radiotherapy applications	Annex I, Part A, Dechlorane Plus entry, point 2(a) to (c)
4 August 2030	Expiry of the UV-328 exemptions for land-based motor vehicles, industrial and heavy-duty coatings, blood collection tubes, polarisers,	Annex I, Part A, UV-328 entry, point 2(a) to (f)

photographic paper
and aircraft

31 December 2043	Latest end of the spare-part exemptions for UV-328 and Dechlorane Plus in motor vehicles, industrial machines and instruments, unless the service life ends earlier	Annex I, Part A, UV-328 entry, point 2(g); Dechlorane Plus entry, point 2(d)
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Obligations by role

Manufacturer or formulator

- Do not manufacture an Annex I substance, on its own, in a mixture or in an article, and do not place such substances, mixtures or articles on the market or use them, unless Article 4 or the entry itself allows it.
Art. 3(1) and Art. 4
- Keep any residual presence of a listed substance below the unintentional-trace limit in its entry, for example 0,025 mg/kg for PFOA, PFOS and PFHxS and their salts, 1 mg/kg for their related compounds, 10 mg/kg for the sum of the five PBDEs, 75 mg/kg for HBCDD, 0,01 mg/kg for methoxychlor and, from 30 September 2026, 0,01 mg/kg for chlorpyrifos; where an entry sets no limit there is no tolerance.
Art. 4(1)(b) and Annex I, Part A; Annex
- If you rely on a specific exemption, stay within its purpose and end date and meet its conditions: articles in which decaBDE is used must be identifiable by labelling or other means throughout their life cycle, PFOA fire-fighting foam may not be used for training, and PFOA in installed foam is tolerated only up to 1 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg until 3 August 2028. Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, point 6; PFOA entry, points 4a and 6
- If you rely on a specific exemption, you may use it only within its purpose and end date and under its conditions; PFOA fire-fighting foam may not be used for training, and PFOA in installed foam is tolerated only up to 1 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg until 3 August 2028.
Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, point 6; PFOA entry, points 4a and 6
- Make articles in which decaBDE is used under a specific exemption identifiable by labelling or other means throughout their life cycle. Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, point 6
- Manufacture or use a Part A substance as a closed-system site-limited intermediate only where the entry carries an annotation, your Member State has notified the Convention Secretariat, and you have demonstrated to the competent authority that the process transforms the substance into non-POPs under rigorous containment and reported actual or estimated quantities and residual contamination.
Art. 2(11) and Art. 4(3)
- Manage a stockpile of a listed substance for which no use is permitted as waste, and report a stockpile above 50 kg of a substance still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, keeping it in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner. Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)
- Manage a stockpile consisting of or containing a listed substance for which no use is permitted as waste, and keep any permitted stockpile in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner.
Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, with its nature and size. Art. 5(2)
- As a producer of waste, undertake all reasonable efforts to avoid contaminating it with Annex IV substances, and make sure waste above the Annex IV limits goes to destruction or irreversible transformation rather than recycling. Art. 7(1) and Art. 7(2)

Importer

- Do not import substances, mixtures or articles containing an Annex I substance above its unintentional-trace limit: import is placing on the market, and the prohibition in Article 3(1) applies to it without any company-size threshold. Art. 2(1), Art. 2(7) and Art. 3(1)
- Obtain evidence from your suppliers, and test where needed, that textiles, coatings, plastics, electronics and other articles respect the entry limits, in particular the 0,025 mg/kg limits for PFOA, PFOS and PFHxS and their salts, 1 mg/kg for their related compounds, 0,15 % by weight for SCCPs in articles, 10 mg/kg for the PBDE sum in articles not made of recovered material, 100 mg/kg for UV-328 until 4 August 2027 and 1 000 mg/kg for Dechlorane Plus until 15 April 2028. Art. 4(1)(b) and Annex I, Part A
- For articles from recovered material, apply the derogation limits for the PBDE sum of 350 mg/kg until 29 December 2027 and 200 mg/kg thereafter, and for toys and childcare products 350 mg/kg until 16 May 2027 and 10 mg/kg from 17 May 2027; food contact materials get no derogation.

Annex I, Part A, PBDE entries, point 2

- Import articles containing decaBDE, UV-328 or Dechlorane Plus only for the purposes and until the dates in the entry: imported decaBDE articles under the specific exemptions are allowed until those exemptions expire and must be labelled as if produced under the exemption; UV-328 articles for motor vehicles, coatings, blood collection tubes, polarisers, photographic paper and aircraft until 4 August 2030; Dechlorane Plus for aerospace, defence, medical imaging and radiotherapy until 26 February 2030. Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, point 7; UV-328 entry, point 2; Dechlorane Plus entry, point 2
- Articles containing decaBDE, UV-328 or Dechlorane Plus may be imported only for the purposes and until the dates in the entry: decaBDE articles until the specific exemptions expire, UV-328 articles for the listed uses until 4 August 2030, Dechlorane Plus for aerospace, defence, medical imaging and radiotherapy until 26 February 2030.

Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, point 7; UV-328 entry, point 2; Dechlorane Plus entry, point 2

- Label imported articles containing decaBDE under a specific exemption as if they had been produced under that exemption, so that they are identifiable throughout their life cycle.

Annex I, Part A, decaBDE entry, points 6 and 7

- When a substance is newly added to Annex I, articles produced before or on the date the regulation becomes applicable to it may still be placed on the market for six months; after that, only articles already in use may continue to be used. Art. 4(2)
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months and annually thereafter, and manage stockpiles of substances with no permitted use as waste. Art. 5
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, with its nature and size. Art. 5(2)
- Manage a stockpile consisting of or containing a listed substance for which no use is permitted as waste, and keep any permitted stockpile in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner.

Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)

Distributor, retailer or downstream user

- Do not place on the market or use substances, mixtures or articles containing an Annex I substance above its unintentional-trace limit; the prohibition binds every person in the supply chain, not only the manufacturer or importer. Art. 2(1), Art. 2(6) and Art. 3(1)
- Check that goods made of recycled plastic or polystyrene respect the recovered-material limits for the PBDE sum (350 mg/kg until 29 December 2027, 200 mg/kg from 30 December 2027; 10 mg/kg for toys and childcare products from 17 May 2027) and for HBCDD (75 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg only in recycled polystyrene for EPS and XPS building insulation). Annex I, Part A, PBDE entries, point 2; HBCDD entry, point 1
- Distinguish articles already in use, which may continue to be used, from second-hand sales: an entry that allows only 'use' of articles in use before its listing date does not authorise placing them on the market again, whereas the endosulfan, hexachlorobutadiene and polychlorinated naphthalene entries allow 'placing on the market and use' of articles in use before or on 10 July 2012. Art. 4(2) and Annex I, Part A
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, and manage unsellable stock of a substance with no permitted use as waste under Article 7. Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, with its nature and size. Art. 5(2)
- Manage a stockpile consisting of or containing a listed substance for which no use is permitted as waste, and keep any permitted stockpile in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner.
Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)
- Hand over recalled or unsellable stock to the disposal route the Danish supervisory authority orders; under kemikalieloven the authority can require a product to be recalled from dealers and users and destroyed, and dealers and users must return it as instructed. § 48, stk. 2 and stk. 3

Holder of a stockpile, producer or holder of waste, waste operator

- As a producer or holder of waste, undertake all reasonable efforts to avoid contaminating waste with Annex IV substances. Art. 7(1)
- Dispose of or recover waste consisting of, containing or contaminated by an Annex IV substance above its limit without undue delay through an Annex V Part 1 operation (physico-chemical treatment D9, incineration D10, energy recovery R1 except for PCB waste, or restricted metal recovery R4) so that the POP content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed; a listed substance may be isolated during pre-treatment only if it is then destroyed the same way. Art. 7(2), Annex IV and Annex V, Part 1
- Do not carry out disposal or recovery operations that may lead to the recovery, recycling, reclamation or re-use of an Annex IV substance on its own. Art. 7(3)
- Waste with a POP content below the Annex IV limits may be otherwise disposed of or recovered under ordinary Union waste law; for the wastes in Annex V Part 2, such as fly ash, soil and stones or chimney-sweeping waste, the competent authority may in exceptional cases authorise permanent storage up to the Part 2 limits once you have shown that decontamination is not feasible and destruction is not the environmentally preferable option, and have provided information on the POP content.

Art. 7(4) and Annex V, Part 2

- Keep the control and traceability records required by Article 17 of Directive 2008/98/EC for waste containing or contaminated by an Annex IV substance; Member States must ensure this control. Art. 7(6)
- As the holder of a stockpile, manage a stockpile of a substance with no permitted use as waste, and report a stockpile above 50 kg of a substance still permitted within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, managing it in line with the thresholds and requirements of Directive 2012/18/EU. Art. 5
- Manage a stockpile consisting of or containing a listed substance for which no use is permitted as waste, and keep any permitted stockpile in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner, in line with the thresholds and requirements of Directive 2012/18/EU. Art. 5(1) and Art. 5(2)
- Report a stockpile above 50 kg of a listed substance whose use is still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months of its listing and annually thereafter, with its nature and size. Art. 5(2)
- Apply the transitional ash limits: 5 µg/kg for PCDD/PCDF and dioxin-like PCBs in fly ashes from biomass units since 31 December 2023 and in ashes and soot from private households since 1 January 2025.

Art. 21a

Penalties

Member States lay down the rules on penalties for infringements of the regulation and take all measures necessary to ensure they are implemented; the penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and had to be notified to the Commission by 16 July 2020. Each Member State designates the competent authorities responsible for administration and enforcement, reports on enforcement activities, infringements and penalties, and coordinates enforcement through the Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement at the European Chemicals Agency. Market surveillance draws on Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, whose Annex I lists Regulation (EC) No 850/2004, read as Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 since the recast repealed it. In Denmark, the regulation is enforced under lov om kemikalier (kemikalieloven): Miljøstyrelsen's chemicals inspection (Kemikalieinspektionen) supervises, the supervisory authority must have an unlawful situation legalised and can order the responsible party to stop sales, inform users of the danger, remedy the cause, recall the substance, mixture or article from dealers and users and destroy it, seize unlawful goods, order the owner of an online interface to change or remove content that refers to non-compliant substances, mixtures or articles (§ 50) and, where such an order is not complied with or unlawful sales are repeated, have the online interface blocked by court order at its request (§ 50 a); infringements of EU regulations on substances, mixtures and articles covered by the law are punished with a fine, rising to imprisonment of up to two years where the infringement was intentional or grossly negligent and caused harm or danger to human or animal health or the environment or where the offender obtained or intended an economic advantage, and companies can be held criminally liable. The waste rules of Article 7 and Annexes IV and V are enforced separately in Denmark under the environmental protection act (miljøbeskyttelsesloven) and the waste order, through the municipalities and Miljøstyrelsen.

Art. 8(2), Art. 13(1)(a), Art. 14 and Art. 19; Art. 2(1) and Annex I, point 16; § 45, § 48, § 48 b, § 50, § 50 a, § 59, stk. 1, nr. 1, § 59, stk

Checklist

- 1. Screen every product family for the 32 Annex I substances, in particular PFAS coatings and treatments (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS), brominated flame retardants (the five PBDEs, HBCDD, hexabromobiphenyl), SCCPs in plastics and rubber, UV-328 in plastics and coatings, Dechlorane Plus in electronics and adhesives, and chlorpyrifos from 30 September 2026 (Article 3(1) and Annex I).
- 2. Collect supplier declarations and, where the risk warrants it, test reports against the unintentional-trace limit of each entry, remembering that entries without a limit allow no tolerance at all (Article 4(1)(b) and Annex I).
- 3. Treat recycled-content products separately: track the PBDE sum against 350 mg/kg until 29 December 2027 and 200 mg/kg thereafter, the 10 mg/kg limit for toys and childcare products from 17 May 2027, and the HBCDD limits of 75 mg/kg or 100 mg/kg (Annex I, PBDE and HBCDD entries).
- 4. Map each use of a listed substance to a specific exemption in its entry, record its end date and conditions, and plan substitution before it expires: UV-328 and Dechlorane Plus exemptions run to 2030, spare-part exemptions to the end of service life or 31 December 2043 (Annex I, Part A).
- 5. Diarise the step-downs: PBDE 350 to 200 mg/kg on 30 December 2027, UV-328 100 to 10 mg/kg on 4 August 2027 and 1 mg/kg on 4 August 2029, Dechlorane Plus 1 000 to 1 mg/kg after 15 April 2028, PFOA foam limits until 3 August 2028 (Annex I, Part A).
- 6. Check stockpiles: manage stock of a substance with no permitted use as waste, and notify stockpiles above 50 kg of substances still permitted to the competent authority within 12 months and annually thereafter (Article 5).
- 7. Plan end-of-life: waste above the Annex IV limits must be destroyed or irreversibly transformed through an Annex V Part 1 operation and may not be recycled, and traceability under Article 17 of Directive 2008/98/EC must be kept (Article 7 and Annexes IV and V).
- 8. Follow the delegated acts that add substances or change limits, one per substance, and the Commission's reviews of the Annex IV waste limits due by 30 December 2027 (Article 15 and Annex IV).
- 9. Cross-check REACH Annex XVII, the RoHS Directive and the Toy Safety Directive, which the POPs entries refer to for electrical equipment, toys and food contact materials, so the same substance is handled consistently (Annex I, PBDE entries).

Sources

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15. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/718 on PFOS limits (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R0718>
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17. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/843 listing UV-328 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R0843>
18. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1930 listing Dechlorane Plus (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R1930>
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