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ECHA Publishes POPs Implementation Reports: Key Findings for Industry



In June, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published six reports on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). These reports summarize the occurrence of POPs in products, waste streams, and stockpiles, alongside related waste management activities across European Union Member States.

Overview of ECHA's Findings

The reports offer detailed insights into the manufacture, market placement, and stockpiling of listed POP substances across six countries: [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Lithuania](#), the [Netherlands](#), and [Portugal](#).

Key restricted substances identified across various EU products and stockpiles include:

- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)
- Decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE)

Overview of ECHA's Findings

Product Category	Common Detected POPs	Specific Application	Representative Statistical data
Electrical & Transmission Equipment	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	• Transformer • Dielectric fluids	Lithuania: 2 stockpiles of "still in operation" electrical equipment, totalling 12.55 tonnes and 31.375 tonnes
Construction & Demolition Materials	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)	• Joint sealants/fillers used in buildings • Sealed double-glazed window units	Germany: a single shipment of 999 tonnes of waste insulation material containing HBCDD (at a concentration of 1,900 mg/kg)
Firefighting & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonic acid (PFOS)	• Aqueous Film-Forming Foam • Oil- and water-repellent protective workwear	France: Declared up to 98 stockpiles of PFOA-containing firefighting foams in 2025, totalling 2,685.65 tonnes
Electrical, Electronic & Plastic Products	Decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE), Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (TetraBDE)	• Plastic casings • Components of electrical/electronic appliances	Portugal: Imported 9,779 tonnes and 14,655 tonnes of DecaBDE in 2019 and 2020, respectively, probably as flame retardant

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