

Draft - Phase Out Timeline

On May 16, 2000, 3M announced that it was substantially discontinuing manufacture of products based on the perfluorooctanyl chemistry by the end of 2000. In June 2000, 3M submitted its initial phase-out plan to US EPA. That plan is being implemented and the bulk of 3M perfluorooctanyl production ended before December 31, 2000. Some limited production remains and is being addressed as described below.

POSF – The initial phase-out plan focused on ending the manufacture of products derived from perfluorooctane sulfanyl sulfonyl fluoride (POSF). At the time, these products constituted over 95 percent of 3M's total production of perfluorooctanyl chemistries. ~~Their manufacture may have accounted for much of the PFOS in the environment and the general population.~~ Currently, POSF production is limited to a few critical uses – aircraft hydraulic equipment, for example – and will end by December 31, 2002.

PFOS – Production of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) has been a small part of 3M's production of perfluorooctanyl chemistries. This production has ended for most uses. Remaining uses have been restricted to critical industrial applications. Production for these critical uses will be eliminated by December 31, 2002.

PFOA – Production of perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts has been a small part of 3M's manufacturing involving perfluorooctanyl chemistries. PFOA is used primarily in the manufacture of fluoropolymers and fluoroelastomers with industrial applications. Production will continue through the end of 2002 for sales into critical applications where substitute chemistries are not available and significant marketplace disruption would occur if supply were to be interrupted. At the end of 2002, this production will cease. Minimal quantities are also used for internal 3M use and a plan for addressing this use is being developed.

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6/1/01

