2026

PFAS Regulations: what it means for industry

Whitepaper

Puragen

Activated Carbon Evolution

PFAS regulation across Europe is entering a new phase. From 2026 onwards, stricter controls on emissions, water quality, and industrial discharge will significantly reshape how operators manage PFAS across water, air, and gas streams.

France is leading this transition with one of the most assertive national frameworks, while EU-wide directives are introducing enforceable limits and expanding monitoring requirements.

2026 marks the transition from awareness to enforcement.

PFAS in France: tightening control and accountability

France's Law No. 2025-188 represents a major step forward in PFAS regulation, introducing a structured framework focused on reducing pollution and increasing industrial responsibility.

Key measures include:

- Expanded monitoring of industrial sites
- National mapping of PFAS contamination
- "Polluter pays" charges for water discharges
- Product bans from January 2026

From 2026, PFAS-containing cosmetics, ski waxes, and selected textiles are prohibited.

The legislation also sets a clear long-term ambition:
Eliminate certain industrial PFAS discharges to water within five years

Growing liability for operators

The introduction of the "polluter pays" model marks a significant shift in accountability. Operators must now prepare for:

Direct financial penalties linked to PFAS discharge

Increased investigation and remediation requirements

Exposure linked to both current and historic contamination

As monitoring and mapping expand, PFAS risks will become more visible—and more enforceable.

EU drinking water standards: mandatory from 2026

PFAS limits under the Drinking Water Directive become legally enforceable from January 12, 2026.

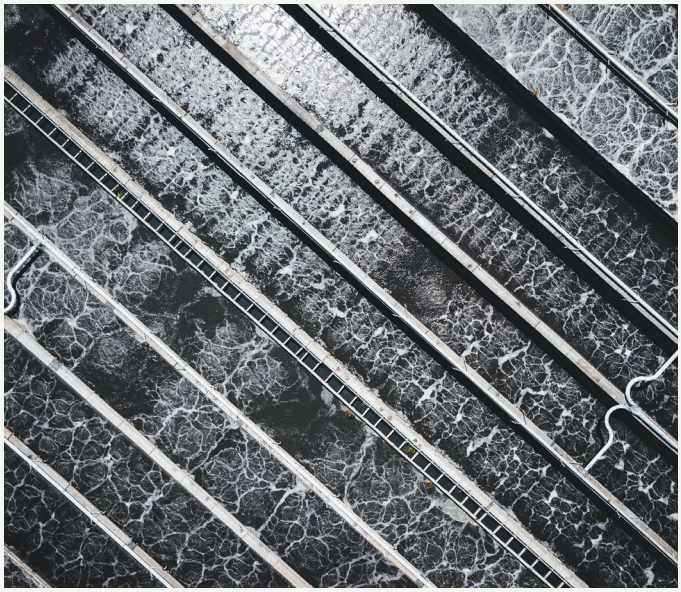
Compliance thresholds:
Sum of 20 PFAS: 0.10 µg/L
Total PFAS: 0.50 µg/L

These are no longer future targets—they are **mandatory limits.**

What this means:

- **Utilities must implement monitoring programmes**
- **Treatment upgrades will be required where limits are exceeded**
- **Rapid deployment solutions will be critical**

Activated carbon remains one of the most established and scalable solutions for achieving compliance.



PFAS in wastewater: focus on micropollutants

The revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (2025) expands regulatory focus to persistent micropollutants, including PFAS.

Stronger emphasis on removing persistent contaminants

Financial responsibility for pharmaceutical and cosmetic producers

Expansion of treatment requirements across wastewater facilities

As a result, treatment plants across Europe are expected to introduce **additional treatment stages** to address PFAS and similar compounds.

PFAS beyond water: air and gas emissions

PFAS is not just a water issue.
Regulation is expanding into:

- **Waste gas emissions**
- **Industrial air streams**
- **Chemical manufacturing processes**

Halogenated compounds linked to PFAS production are increasingly controlled, driving the need for **integrated treatment strategies across all emission points.**

What this means for industry

The regulatory landscape is shifting rapidly, with **2026 as the key turning point**

For operators, the implications are clear: **PFAS monitoring must become standard practice.**
Treatment systems will require upgrading or replacement and liability exposure will increase significantly.

The most resilient approach: early action
Organisations that act now will:

- Reduce regulatory risk
- Avoid costly retrofits and penalties
- Maintain compliance readiness
- Strengthen long-term operational resilience

Puragen's Solution

Puragen provides a complete, end-to-end approach to PFAS management, helping operators move from uncertainty to assurance.

Search

Puragen has invested in advanced analytical capability, including LC-MS, enabling rapid and accurate identification of PFAS species and concentrations to support early risk assessment and treatment selection.

Capture

Puragen's engineered activated carbon solutions are optimised for PFAS adsorption in both liquid and gas phase applications, including short-chain PFAS that are typically harder to remove. These solutions can be deployed through mobile filtration systems for rapid, flexible deployment.

Puragen has proven experience supporting drinking water, legacy contamination projects and industrial operators with PFAS removal, using robust activated carbon-based systems engineered for demanding operating conditions.

Destroy

Puragen's REACT-Sys+ reactivation technology enables the recycling of POPs-containing spent carbon, including PFAS laden carbon, delivering complete PFAS molecular breakdown and mineralisation. This allows spent carbon to be safely re-used, eliminating the need for landfill or incineration and significantly reducing lifecycle carbon footprint.

Across a range of applications, Puragen delivers the technologies and technical expertise required to manage PFAS risk effectively—from Search, to Capture, to Destroy.

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