

PPI STATEMENT AA

Regulated PFAS Chemicals and Plastic Piping for Potable Water Transport

Revised April 2, 2024

On March 29, 2023, the EPA initiated the process to regulate six (6) specific PFAS chemicals in drinking water.^{i,ii} Water utilities are expending significant resources to improve their water treatment processes to remove these chemicals from the drinking water they supply.

PPI surveyed members supplying HDPE, PE-RT, CPVC, and PP materials for potable water piping applicationsⁱⁱⁱ on the use of these chemicals. As a result of this survey, PPI has concluded that the chemicals identified in EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking are not intentionally added to the finished piping products for these materials.

Additionally, the question has arisen whether PFAS chemicals in the soil could permeate through plastic pipe into drinking water within the piping. Research by G. Ruta *et al.*, published in the Journal of the Australian Water Association, concluded "... that permeation of undamaged PE and PVC pipe by PFAS is unlikely."^{iv} This conclusion is supported by their six-month laboratory exposure trial of HDPE to potential permeation by 29 PFAS compounds.

The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) and our members are dedicated to promoting the safe use of plastic piping systems for potable water and other applications. PPI continues to monitor research and regulations as information evolves. We will update this statement, as needed.

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ⁱ Proposed EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR), docket EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114

ⁱⁱ The six PFAS chemicals referred to in this statement are those proposed for EPA regulation in potable water: PFOA (CAS 335-67-1), PFOS (CAS 763-23-1), PFNA (CAS 375-95-1), PFHxS (CAS 355-46-4), PFBS (CAS 375-73-5), GenX chemicals (CAS 13252-13-6) ([Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas)).

ⁱⁱⁱ Potable water service, distribution, transport, per the corresponding AWWA and ASTM standards.

^{iv} Ruta, G., McNanemin, A., and Jayaratne, A. H. R. "Are PFAS an issue for permeation of plastic water pipes?" Water e-Journal (2019), Online Journal of the Australian Water Association, Vol. 4, No.3, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.21139/wej.2019.021> - [Link](#).