

**Customers of  
Schwer Fittings**

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**Statement PFAS**

Dear customers of Schwer Fittings,

Schwer Fittings manufactures and distributes products in the field of stainless-steel tube connection technology, stainless-steel fittings and valves. Some of these products currently contain PFAS-based materials in elastomers or fluoropolymers, which are essential for their functionality.

In this context, we take the current developments regarding the regulation of PFAS materials (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) very seriously. Schwer Fittings is aware of the ecological and regulatory significance of this topic and is actively working to evaluate and implement sustainable alternatives wherever possible.

At present, the extent of future regulations remains unclear, resulting in uncertainties in the market. However, it currently appears likely that regulations will be set in place, although the final scope has not yet been conclusively defined by legislative or regulatory institutions.

PFAS-containing materials are present in many different products at Schwer Fittings, such as hoses, assemblies with elastomer seals made of FKM/FFKM, or sealing packs made of PTFE/PFA. Additionally, PFAS are also used as ingredients in certain operating materials, such as lubricants.

Due to their carbon fluorine bonds, these materials are extremely chemically stable and therefore indispensable for demanding applications or can only be replaced with great difficulty by PFAS free alternatives. This is particularly true for process industry applications, where the highest requirements for chemical resistance and temperature stability exist and where these materials are commonly used.

Fluorinated elastomers such as FKM or FFKM are high molecular fluoropolymers. Polymers generally do not have a unique CAS number for the complete material, as they consist of varying polymer chains. Furthermore, rubber compounds are mixtures of polymer(s), fillers, additives, and crosslinking systems.

Due to these facts, Schwer Fittings is unable to provide an exact list of individual PFAS substances with corresponding CAS numbers, as well as precise concentration details for the FKM and FFKM materials used. Schwer Fittings does not have this information at the formulation or compound level, and in some cases the information is proprietary within the supply chain.

In certain applications – especially for products such as hoses, fittings or valves – the use of PFAS containing materials such as PTFE is currently indispensable. According to the current state of the art, no equivalent PFAS free alternatives are available. Nevertheless, it is the goal of Schwer Fittings to gradually reduce the use of PFAS wherever suitable alternative materials are available. In this context, we are in close contact with our suppliers for operating materials, sealing materials and plastics, who are already working on solutions for alternative materials.

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The Schwer Fittings product portfolio already offers PFAS-free alternatives for a large number of products and applications. PFAS-free sealing materials such as EPDM, NBR, and silicone are available in various product groups as alternatives to the FKM sealing materials often used as standard and are available from stock in many cases. These non-fluorinated elastomers do not contain intentionally added PFAS substances. Due to the material chemistry of these compounds, no per- or polyfluorinated alkyl substances are used in their formulations. Therefore, with regard to inquiries about “intentionally added PFAS,” they are generally not subject to reporting.

Furthermore, in some cases, sealing packs made of PTFE/PFA used in valves can be replaced with alternative materials such as PEEK. PFAS free options also exist for certain operating materials, including lubricants and adhesives used for the assembly of fittings and valves, Schwer Fittings is actively promoting this transition.

Schwer Fittings is happy to assist its customers in selecting suitable materials to reduce or even eliminate PFAS usage. However, we would like to point out that, in the event of changing from a PFAS containing material to a PFAS free material, the customer is responsible for verifying the resistance and suitability of the new material for the specific application. Schwer Fittings cannot provide any warranty in this regard, as alternative materials are generally not fully functionally equivalent.

For questions or further information, we are at your disposal and look forward to an open dialogue on this important topic.

With best regards,



**Schwer Fittings GmbH**

ppa. Martin Hauser – Head of Business Unit Engineering and Quality