



PFAS EDUCATION



PART 4:
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT
RESTRICTING PTFE-COATED
COOKWARE AND BAKEWARE



THE COOKWARE & BAKEWARE ALLIANCE

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PFAS Advocacy & Education

Education Document #4

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT RESTRICTING PTFE-COATED COOKWARE AND BAKEWARE

Introduction

In previous parts of this series by CBA, we discussed several topics around PFAS and Cookware & Bakeware.

In Part 1 the large group of PFAS was divided into non-polymeric fluorochemicals and polymeric fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers such as PTFE, which is used in nonstick coatings of cookware and bakeware, have very different properties compared to fluorochemicals. Existing legal restrictions of legacy fluorochemicals such as PFOA or PFOS should not be extended to fluoropolymers without scientific justification.

In Part 2, it was shown that fluoropolymers do not present an unacceptable risk to human health and are classified as polymers of low concern. PTFE coated cookware and bakeware are assessed by authorities in the US and Europe as safe for the user. In addition, the emissions of PFAS into the environment during the production of PTFE coated cookware is negligible.

In Part 3, the full lifecycle of PTFE coated cookware was described: 1. manufacturing of raw materials, 2. manufacturing of the product, 3. use of the product and 4. end-of-life. Sections 1, 2 and 4 are carried out by professionals with clear and elaborate OSHA safety and EPA environmental regulations. It was shown that PTFE coated cookware and bakeware has throughout its full lifecycle a negligible risk for PFAS emissions into the environment and is safe-to-use for the consumer.

In Part 4, we will have a closer look at the socio-economic impact of bans and restrictions of PTFE coated cookware and bakeware.

General Socio-Economic Impact of PFAS Restrictions

According to the US Chamber of Commerce, 6 million Americans work in sectors dependent on fluorochemistries, providing over \$2.4 trillion in output and nearly \$1 trillion in GDP.⁽¹⁾

Fluorochemistries are essential to American innovation. They support critical manufacturing sectors, provide well-paying jobs, and enhance national security. Estimates are that the transition to potential replacements could take decades.

DISCLAIMER: The Information compiled here is not to be considered legal advice. This Information is intended to help understand important industry news and provide what the Alliance and/or affiliated experts understand of the situation. We recommend that all follow up on this or other industry news be discussed with your legal teams.



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Socio-Economic Impact of PFAS Restrictions on PTFE Coated Cookware and Bakeware

The market size of non-stick coated cookware in the US is estimated at \$2.5 billion in 2024 [https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/us-cookware-market-report]. Analogous conclusions can be drawn for the US economy using a recent market study carried out by the European Federation for Cookware, Cutlery and Houseware Industries (FEC). The socio-economic impact of PFAS restrictions on PTFE coated cookware and bakeware include:

1. **Relocation of production abroad.** Environmental regulations such as the restrictions on VOC emissions will relocate production abroad, which will lead to the closure of production sites. Research and development is best located close to production, and consequently these jobs will also be relocated abroad. The FEC estimates that 14,700 jobs in Europe are at risk from a ban on PTFE-coated cookware.
2. **Significant investment in alternatives and loss of know-how.** The current alternatives do not have the same properties as PTFE. If this fluoropolymer is banned for use in cookware and bakeware, significant investment will be needed to find viable alternatives. It is likely that this expertise will be developed outside the US and that ultimately the consumer will have to bear the costs.
3. **Roller coating technology can no longer be applied** and all investments in this expensive equipment must be written off. Significant investments need to be made to adjust to alternatives. Roller coating technology is the more efficient and environmentally friendlier method, and produces products that are affordable to a wider range of consumers..
4. **Putting small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) at risk.** Any change poses a significant risk to industry and particularly to SMEs. For these companies, large investments in a difficult environment can be a threat to their survival.
5. **Negative impact on GDP.** The FEC estimated that the total contribution of the sector to the EU economy (GDP contribution), including indirect and induced effects of the proposed PFAS restriction, could mean a decline of €500 million. Based on an even larger market for non-stick cookware in the US, at least a similar amount can be expected.

Conclusion

PTFE-coated cookware poses a negligible risk of PFAS emissions into the environment over its entire life cycle and is safe for consumers to use. Any restriction of its use will have a significant negative impact on the US cookware industry, employment and consumers.

References

- (1) <https://www.uschamber.com/environment/essential-chemistries-providing-benefits-across-the-u-s-economy>

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