



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

The association of electrical equipment
and medical imaging manufacturers
www.nema.org

January 28, 2025

Submitted via Email to:

Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Subject: *Comment on Chapter 90: Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*

NEMA Comments on:

Proposed Chapter 90: Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance under Maine's Act to Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution, 38 M.R.S. § 1614

To Maine Department of Environmental Protection:

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) represents over 300 electrical equipment and medical imaging manufacturers that make safe, reliable, and efficient products and systems. Together, our members contribute 1% of U.S. GDP and directly provide nearly 460,000 American jobs, contributing more than \$240 billion to the U.S. economy.

NEMA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed rule for products containing PFAS substances and would like to propose modifications to the rule for improving legal certainty for electrical manufacturers.

Electrical products are essential for the functioning of the society; they are used in the generation, transmission, distribution, and safe and efficient use of electricity. PFAS are used to make a diverse array of these products, many of which are critical contributors to meeting our nation's goals relating to electrification, energy security, and sustainability. These products include electronic components found in pacemakers, electronic sensors, industrial automation relays and soft starters, circuit boards, solar panels, batteries and semiconductors.^{1 2} PTFE, which is included in broad PFAS definitions, is used as an electrical insulator for ultra-high performance insulated wire, which is used in transformers, electrical vehicles, wind turbines, and assorted motor applications where failure cannot be tolerated. PTFE also provides an essential insulating function in high voltage circuit breakers.

¹ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>

² <https://fluoropolymerpartnership.com/>

Other PFAS, such as C4-Fluoronitrile and C5-Fluoroketone gases, are important alternatives to SF6, which has a high global warming potential. In grid decarbonization strategies throughout the country, C4-Fluoronitrile, and C5-Fluoroketone can replace Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) in providing insulation for different power grid equipment like medium- and high-voltage switchgear and circuit breakers, at a much lower climate impact.

Definitions - Electronics

NEMA is concerned that the definition of “electronics” as proposed in the rule is subject to interpretation and does not provide legal certainty. To ensure there is a common understanding among all actors in the electrical value chain, and to provide legal certainty for electrical manufacturers and its suppliers and customers, we propose to add examples of electrical equipment in Section 2:

2. Definitions

Electronics. “Electronics” means technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities, including electrical equipment such as, but not limited to, power grid equipment, motors and generators, arc welding, batteries, electrical conduits, fuses, enclosures, connectors, wiring devices, low voltage distribution equipment, power electronics, residential & commercial controls, wires & cables, industrial automation controls, commercial and industrial lighting equipment, residential light fixtures (luminaires), electric vehicle and transportation management equipment.

Moreover, further clarity could be provided by also including examples in Section 4. We propose that Section 4(12) reads as follows:

4. Exemptions.

A. The following are exempt from the requirements of this Chapter: . . .

(12) Non-consumer electronics, non-consumer laboratory equipment not ordinarily used for personal, family or household purposes, power grid equipment and other electrical equipment; and

NEMA appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to DEP on the proposed rule and as well would like to express our support for the comments submitted by the Chemical Users Coalition and the Complex Products Manufacturers Coalition.

Thank you for your consideration.

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