

14 Jan 2026

Ref: PCD1/TIW/26-01

To: All Toxic Industrial Waste Collectors (TIWCs)

Dear Sir/Madam

UPDATES ON THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF FIREFIGHTING FOAMS CONTAINING PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

NEA previously issued a circular PCD1/TIW/25-01 on 3 January 2025 regarding the collection, treatment, and disposal of firefighting foams containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As mentioned in the circular, TIWCs intending to collect firefighting foams containing Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), their salts and/or related compounds at or above their respective threshold concentrations¹ must **seek prior approval by submitting a TIWC amendment application to NEA's Chemical Control and Management Department** for the inclusion of an entry on firefighting foam containing PFAS into your TIWC licence.

2 As part of the TIWC licence amendment process, TIWCs must (i) demonstrate through appropriate treatment capabilities for firefighting foam containing PFAS through suitable sampling and analysis methods, such as US EPA OTM-45, and (ii) undergo and pass a pre-licencing trial run for the incineration of the waste stream. TIWC can refer to the Destruction and Removal Efficiency (DRE) and Combustion Efficiency (CE) requirements, as stipulated in NEA's guidelines for a special waste incinerator, when incinerating firefighting foam containing PFAS.

3 The recommended industry method for the destruction and disposal of PFAS containing firefighting foam is through High Temperature Incineration (HTI) under the following operating parameters:

- Operating Temperature: Minimum 1,100°C
- Residence Time: At least 2 seconds at the abovementioned temperature

4 To address industry queries on the regulatory requirements and recommendations for firefighting foam and proper disposal of PFAS containing firefighting foam, NEA has published an [industry guideline on the phase out of PFAS containing firefighting foams](#). TIWCs may wish to refer to this guideline for more information.

5 As NEA continues to monitor the disposal of PFAS-containing firefighting foams from industries, all TIWCs must perform due diligence to ensure they are properly licensed to collect such foams. This includes, but is not limited to, requesting Safety Data Sheets (SDS) from foam suppliers to confirm composition and ascertain PFAS levels. **As SDS may not comprehensively reflect all constituents in the foam, any collector of such foams may be required to provide compositional analysis based on suitable test methods (e.g. US EPA Method 1633, US EPA Method 533, TOP-A method) to NEA to confirm the presence of PFAS upon request.**

6 We seek your cooperation in ensuring compliance with these requirements to ensure proper treatment of firefighting foam containing PFAS. If you have any further queries, you may wish to contact Ms Heng Hui Yee (heng_hui_yee@nea.gov.sg) and Ms Hanisah Akram (hanisah_akram@nea.gov.sg).

¹ The respective PFAS threshold concentrations are:-

- PFOA, including their salts and related compounds: 25 ppb
- PFOS, including their salts and related compounds: 10,000 ppb
- PFHxS, including their salts and related compounds: 100 ppb

Yours faithfully



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