Paris, 7 September 2026

EUROPEAN SPACE SECTOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SEA OPINION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A UK REACH RESTRICTION ON PFAS IN FIREFIGHTING FOAM

Reference: HSE socioeconomic consultation on UK REACH restriction on PFAS in firefighting foam from 9 July 2026 to 7 September 2026[1]

PREFACE

This is a joint contribution of the European Space Industry, represented by ASD-EUROSPACE – with the support of the European Space Agency (ESA) and other European space stakeholders – to the UK HSE Agency Opinion on the Annex 15 Report on the Proposal for a Restriction on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams (FFF).[2] The contribution has been prepared by participants of the ***Space Restrictions Task Force (RTF) under the Materials and Processes Technology Board of the European Space Components Coordination (ESCC MPTB)***.[3]

CALL FOR EXPLICIT MENTIONING OF SPACEPORTS IN A UK RESTRICTION ON PFAS IN FFF TO BENEFIT FROM A 10-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD

We appreciate that *spaceports* have been considered in the analysis of uses for firefighting foams in Section 3.1.6.5.2 of the Background Document to the Agency Opinion (p117-118).[4]

Under the **EU REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006**, a restriction on PFAS in FFF is already in force since 2025 in **Entry 82 to Annex XVII**; **Recital (36)** to the corresponding Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1988 of 2 October 2025 clarifies:[5]

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[1] Available at https://consultations.hse.gov.uk/crd-reach/uk-reach-restriction-on-pfas-in-firefighting-foam.

[2] PFAS in FFF – Agency Opinion, June 2026, available at https://consultations.hse.gov.uk/crd-reach/uk-reach-restriction-on-pfas-in-firefighting-foam/supporting_documents/pfas-in-fff-agency-opinionpdf-1.

[3] A list of RTF participants can be found at the end of this contribution.

[4] Available at https://consultations.hse.gov.uk/crd-reach/uk-reach-restriction-on-pfas-in-firefighting-foam/supporting_documents/pfas-in-fff-background-documentpdf-1.

[5] See https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1988.

"Launch facilities for the space industry falling under the establishments covered by Directive 2012/18/EU will consequently have a transitional period of 10 years."

We would herewith like to request a similar explicit provision in a forthcoming UK REACH restriction on PFAS in FFF, ensuring that the longer 10-year transition period applies to spaceport sites with vertical launch capability. Such provision should refer specifically to COMAH[6] sites, rather than to establishments covered by Directive 2012/18/EU (Seveso III).

The view that spaceport sites with vertical launch capability – if qualifying as COMAH sites – would be subject to the 10-year transition period, was also shared by the HSE in a response to ESA of 19 August 2026 (UK REACH Helpdesk ref. 1708LWJ26-0933). Accordingly, it will be valuable to clarify the same in a forthcoming UK restriction on PFAS in FFF in the interest of legal certainty and alignment with the EU approach.

We understand that our request may be of primary relevance for the decision maker on the restriction and would therefore like to raise the specific attention with Defra for our request.

LIST OF SPACE RESTRICTIONS TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

This contribution has been prepared by REACHLaw Ltd. in the frame of the Space Restrictions Task Force, which includes the following members:

- **the European Space Industry, represented by ASD-EUROSPACE, and the following corporations:**

  AAC – AEROSPACE & ADVANCED COMPOSITES GMBH

  AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE

  ARIANEGROUP

  AVIO

  BEYOND GRAVITY

  ESR TECHNOLOGY (ESTL)

  HPS GMBH

  INVENT

  JENA-OPTRONIK GMBH

  LEONARDO COMPANY

  MATERIALES GMBH

[6] Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015.

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- **the following space agencies:**

  EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)

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  CENTRE NATIONAL D'ETUDES SPATIALES (CNES)

  GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTER (DLR)

  UK SPACE AGENCY (UK SA)

- **the following independent research organisations:**

  MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL PHYSICS

  TNO

- **the following observers:**

  AEROSPACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE (ASD)

  EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA)

- **and as a consultant supporting the RTF:**

  REACHLAW LTD.

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