

Question text

Answered during the breakout-session

Can you explain more in detail the samples taken from wastewater in 2021, 2022 and 2023? Are you planning to sample in 2024?

Case of recycling of materials: why have you started enforcement when there were no legal limits?

Are there companies that are planning to do the transition to fluorine-free foams in 2 steps?

What do think about the responsibility of the companies like 3M, Chemours,? Is there a difference between Netherlands and Flanders?

There is no action and enforcement on PFAS in food and pesticides, all focus on water /air. Why? Are other ministries not alert?

Why is the limit for soil improver 15 microgram/kg for 17 PFAS, while for soil (free reuse) PFAS (total) has to be lower then 8 microgram/kg

What if a party of soil is below criteria, but treated with a soil improver exceeds the criteria? Is the soil than considered as a waste?

Awaiting new legislation, are air emissions from household waste incineration plants already monitored in Flanders? How much PFAS is found in the emitted air?

What are the best practices or techniques to decontaminate fire fighting equipment before changing to a fluorine free foam

how do you deal with public opinion versus the sometimes limited options for enforcement action

Was there ever a consideration of using the precautionary principle (environment and health - both) as to Chemours, to implement measures through inspection ?

Do you plan to monitor PFAS in urban wastewater?

"Pending", to be answered after the PFAS-event

The criteria for PFOA in excavated soil should be maximum 2 microgram/kg (instead of 3 like mentioned on the slide)

Is there any publicly available information on PFAS contamination at the SHAPE base near Mons?

Where do we leave, burn, dump all the forbidden and replaced FFF, and how do we check that everyone is compliant?

To Ms Sonck: at what stage of the production/commercialization process was the concentration of 5800 mg/kg (sum) found in the soil improver sample in question?

Why is the limit for soil improver 15 microgram/kg (17 PFAS), while soil free reuse has to be lower then 8 microgram/kg (PFAS total)

Is the EU moving fast enough or are additional national measures needed?

If one can use pfas in building materials, don't we risk to have to take the same measures in the future as for asbestos

My garden in Antwerp is contaminated with PFAS. Can I request the statute of an "innocent owner" and let the Flemish authorities pay for the soil remediation?

Short reply

Samples were taken in sectors where we could expect PFAS in waste water. The programme will be continued in 2024

In the Flemish legislation there is an article that says: (2.3.1.1.): "A material may only be regarded as a raw material if its use does not have any unfavourable effects on the environment or on human health."

This is the basis for the enforcement.

Yes, in some installations, direct transition to F3-foam is difficult/impossible

Mr Molenaar of DCMR mentioned a different attitude by Chemours vs 3M. EPR has to be developed on EU-basis.

PFAS in food and pesticides are monitored by federal authorities (FAVV). The impact of the daily intake is evaluated by Flemish department of Care (answer Bart Bautmans)

This is a legitimate concern; 15 µg/kg dm is the actual test value. Limit values are under construction.

The soil can be enriched with PFAS and reach values that are higher than 8 µg/kg dm (values for free use of soil). When this happens the soil has to be treated as contaminated soil. When the soil is excavated there is a possibility that it becomes waste.

Measurements have been done in the emissions of 1 important household waste incinerator.

We (= Enforcement division) don't have the expertise nor the role to develop such guidelines. We are aware that this is a difficult issue to tackle.

Sometimes enforcement is hindered by limited options for enforcement or missing legislation/limit values, which is difficult for us to explain to the public.

Yes, the precautionary principle was used; just as in the 3M-dossier

There is a program running for measuring PFAS in urban wastewater treatment plants