



## **POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING EFFORTS TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE FLUOROCHEMICALS (PFOS and PFOA)**

At Mountain Hardwear we value ethical, sustainable manufacturing practices that are intended to minimize, mitigate or eliminate risks to workers, customers and the environment.

To put that corporate value into action, we maintain a Restricted Substances List (RSL) which reflects mandatory and voluntary chemical restrictions and we require our suppliers to ensure that all components and finished products supplied by them meet these requirements. We monitor the health, safety and environmental impacts of substances used in the manufacture of our products, review relevant regulatory requirements for our key markets, and maintain open dialog with the companies that make the materials used in our products. As an innovator in the outdoor apparel and footwear industry, we are also committed to on-going research, development and testing to identify and adopt alternative solutions that balance our consumers' high standards for product performance with the impact to the environment.

One family of chemicals that has been a focus due to concerns about toxicity, bioaccumulation in wildlife and humans, and persistence in the environment is long-chain perfluorinated compounds (LCPFCs). Two of these compounds, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), have historically been used in high-performance outdoor products to achieve oil, stain and water repellency but are now restricted in certain markets.

**PFOS has been restricted in certain markets since 2008 and is restricted by our RSL.**

**All Mountain Hardwear brand products are PFOS-free to a limit of  $<1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .**

Until recently PFOA, often referred to as C8 due to its 8-carbon chain structure, has been used in, or in the process of manufacturing, durable water repellent (DWR) finishes applied on external shell fabric and waterproof-breathable membranes.

**PFOA has been the subject of a US EPA phase-out program and regulations in Europe, and is restricted by our RSL.**

**All Mountain Hardwear brand products manufactured after January 1, 2015<sup>1</sup> are PFOA-free to a limit of  $<1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .**

While we have phased out LCPFCs including PFOS and PFOA, we recognize that there are still concerns about the impact of shorter-chain perfluorinated chemicals such as perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA or C6) commonly used as replacements for LCPFCs. We will continue to pursue and adopt non-fluorinated alternatives for waterproof-breathability as the technology evolves to meet our customers' performance expectations.

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<sup>1</sup> with the exception of products sourced by our South Korean subsidiary where PFOA phase-out is currently in progress.