

# 2022 ANNUAL UPDATE ON “GORE FABRICS DIVISION GOAL AND ROADMAP FOR ELIMINATING PFCS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN”




## Introduction

In February 2017, Gore announced the “Goal and Roadmap for Eliminating PFCS of Environmental Concern (PFC<sub>EC</sub>)” from the lifecycle of its consumer fabrics products following an intense and fruitful discussion with Greenpeace. Building on our decades’ long product sustainability work, this led to an ambitious research and development (R&D) program for Gore that stretches over several years to 2023. This program allows us to develop new consumer outdoor products targeting the optimal combination of performance and improved environmental footprint.

As we want to make sure that our customers, end consumers and the broader public stay with us on this journey we publish regular updates on progress we are making in achieving our goals.

Key:  Completed on time  On track  Delayed

## Progress Report January 2022

Milestones	Status	Progress
see details in Gore’s „Goal and Roadmap“ document		made 2021
1. Eliminate PFC <sub>EC</sub> from laminates that correlate with <b>85%</b> of finished consumer product units (jackets, shoes, gloves and accessories) by end of 2020, <b>100%</b> by 2023	Gore Fabrics Division currently has numerous dedicated technology and product innovation projects over the coming years, making this a priority in our R&D and commercialization portfolios.  Despite our focus and progress to date, it is now clear that the complete transition of the portfolio by the original target date will not be possible due to product development and scaling challenges. Gore Fabrics Division is still fully committed to the PFC <sub>EC</sub> -free goals for its consumer products, and is now on track to transition the vast majority of its portfolio by end of 2025.	
2. Gore introduces <b>non-fluorinated DWR</b> for A/W 2018 collection in Q2 2018 (see 2.2.1.)	The non-fluorinated Durable Water Repellency (DWR) was selected after a thorough screening and field test phase which demonstrated that this PFC-free DWR meets our performance standards for our general outdoor product range. It has also undergone hazard assessment.  >80% of our general outdoor and lifestyle product portfolio utilize this PFC-free DWR, and we continue to pursue opportunities to expand deployment where it can meet requisite performance and durability requirements for intended end-use.	
3. <b>Product labeling</b> that allows consumers to connect Gore progress to the fabrics products available in the retail market (see 4.0.)	We have developed a new product labelling framework, starting with PFC-free DWRs, and successfully implemented the framework with brand and retail partners. We continue to extend our product labelling framework with brand and retail partners and have further clarified that our new DWR and ePE membrane do not contain PFC’s (PFC-free) in that neither are using fluorinated chemistry.	

## Milestones

see details in Gore's „Goal and Roadmap“ document

## Status

## Progress

made 2021

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| <p>4. New ePTFE barriers made <b>without</b> using PFC<sub>EC</sub> as polymerization aids (see 2.2.2.)</p>   | <p>Gore and our suppliers were successful in developing new PTFE membrane prototypes for fabrics that no longer require PFC<sub>EC</sub> in manufacturing.</p> <p>Work continues to further develop these new materials.</p>   |  |
| <p>5. <b>Complementary membrane material platform</b> that is based on non-fluorinated materials (see 2.2.3.)</p>   | <p>Gore Fabrics Division has been pursuing the development of new materials at pace. We are currently putting significant and focused efforts with ePE, an entirely new membrane material platform for consumer applications. Having successfully addressed multiple technical uncertainties, the technology is showing very promising lab and field test results. First products will be launched during 2022.</p>  |  |
| <p>6. <b>PFC<sub>EC</sub>-free DWR</b> for the most technically challenging uses (see 2.2.4.)</p>   | <p>Our efforts are currently focused only on non-fluorinated DWR for highly demanding end-uses. This poses significant challenges, but we have concentrated our work to the most promising routes and expect to provide first products in the near future.</p>   |  |
| <p>7. <b>PTFE incineration study</b> to evaluate potential releases of a broad range of PFC<sub>EC</sub> over representative municipal incineration conditions (see 5.1.)</p> | <p>Gore evaluated scientific resources worldwide and commissioned the renowned Institute of Technical Chemistry at the Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, Germany, to conduct the PTFE incineration study in its pilot size municipal incineration plant. A variety of stakeholders provided input on the draft study and an independent third party laboratory was selected to perform sample analyses.</p> <p>KIT and Gore published the study in Chemosphere, Volume 226, July 2019, Pages 898-906, a peer-reviewed, scientific journal. More details can be found over this link: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.03.191">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.03.191</a></p> |  |
| <p>8. Implementation of a standardized <b>Hazard Assessment Approach</b>, reporting to begin by end of 2018 (see 3.1.)</p>  | <p>Beyond our long standing work with bluesign® systems and OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100, Gore's product safety and chemical compliance experts have evaluated a range of emerging methodologies and, based on this work, deployed additional protocols for our fabrics portfolio to rapidly screen the properties of new materials. This new approach was reviewed by third party experts and implemented by Gore Fabrics Division in December 2018.</p>  |  |
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