

2021 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_{EC})” 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 2021

Milestones	Status	Progress
see details in Gore’s „Goal and Roadmap“ document		made 2020
1. Eliminate PFC _{EC} from laminates that correlate with 85% of finished consumer product units (jackets, shoes, gloves and accessories) by end of 2020, 100% by 2023	Gore Fabrics Division, in collaboration with Core Technology, currently has numerous dedicated innovation projects to develop new technology over the coming years, making this a priority in our R&D and commercialization portfolios. Although we are working very hard together with our suppliers on delivering against our plan, we acknowledge that the innovation required has not progressed as quickly as we had anticipated. We are currently working towards first shipments to customers. Meeting our PFC _{EC} elimination goal is still projected by the end of 2023.	
2. Gore introduces non-fluorinated DWR 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 _{EC} -Free DWR meets our performance standards for our general outdoor product range. It has also undergone hazard assessment. >50% of our general outdoor product portfolio utilize this PFC _{EC} -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. Product labeling 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 _{EC} -Free DWRs, and successfully implemented the framework with brand and retail partners.	

Milestones

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

Status

Progress

made 2020

4. New ePTFE barriers made **without** using PFC_{EC} as polymerization aids (see 2.2.2.)

Gore and our suppliers were successful in developing new PTFE membrane prototypes for fabrics that no longer require PFC_{EC} in manufacturing.

Work continues to further develop these new materials.



5. **Complementary membrane material platform** that is based on non-fluorinated materials (see 2.2.3.)

Gore Fabrics Division has been pursuing the development of new materials at pace. We are currently putting significant and focused efforts with 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.



6. **PFC_{EC}-Free DWR** for the most technically challenging uses (see 2.2.4.)

While development of PFC_{EC}-Free DWR for highly demanding end-uses poses a significant challenge, with close external collaboration we have narrowed our work to the most promising routes and are on track to achieve our goal.



7. **PTFE incineration study** to evaluate potential releases of a broad range of PFC_{EC} over representative municipal incineration conditions (see 5.1.)

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.

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: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.03.191>



8. Implementation of a standardized **Hazard Assessment Approach**, reporting to begin by end of 2018 (see 3.1.)

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.

