

ProDecon® - Process Decontamination Systems Ltd

ProDecon® was formed in 2009 by a team of industry experts with 50 years' collective experience, providing industrial service solutions to the Oil & Gas, Chemical, Power, Pharmaceutical and Industrial sectors. Specialising in hazardous hydrocarbon and chemical environments, ProDecon® has a unique range of technical expertise, that enables us to support customers with restoring process performance and providing maintenance risk management through bespoke industrial cleaning solutions.

Our vision set out to assure business continuity via a relentless focus on safety, quality and schedule to help customers save time and money. We understand asset integrity and the importance of tackling foulant issues before they manifest into larger, and often more complex problems.

We work across all sectors, with varying types of assets and infrastructure. We integrate early into our customers projects, supporting at every stage of the asset lifecycle, from conception through to decommissioning. Ensuring the most viable solution is designed into the process, that allow assets to operate

more efficiently with longer run times and shorter turnaround times.

Our services include;

- Chemical Cleaning
- Decontamination & Degassing of Process Equipment
- In Situ Heat Exchanger Cleaning
- Fin-Fan Performance Restoration
- On-Line Furnace Cleaning
- Turnaround & Shutdown Services
- Boiler Cleaning
- Pre-commissioning Cleaning & Steam Blowing
- Pipeline Cleaning, Flushing, Pigging & Line Drying
- Chemical Handling
- Bulk Hazardous Liquid Transfer
- Engineering & Technical Services

As a recognised industry leader, known for our safety, agility, unrivalled market leading expertise, and unbiased approach to a single chemistry or service. We provide customers with the confidence, our team can address specific needs and quickly adapt to all industrial businesses.



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PFAS - forever chemicals in fire suppression systems - what do the new UK Regulations mean?

An increasing number of drinking water supplies globally are being found to contain fluorosurfactants used in many firefighting foams, termed per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Regulations to phase these foams out are being promulgated in the UK and Europe, some coming into force on July 4th, so with widespread use of these foams to protect against flammable liquid fires, what does that mean for the chemical industry?

Within the chemical industry PFAS are used in bulk quantities in Class B firefighting foams, termed aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) and fluoroprotein foams (FFFP and FP). The new regulations mean that if a business holds more than 50 litres of foam across a portfolio of site, the composition of PFAS within it must be known to determine whether it exceeds very low thresholds values meaning it is classed as a stockpile of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). If the foam is classed as a stockpile of POPs it is then subject to further regulations where 100% containment after use is required by 2022 and the foam cannot be used by 2024.

With use of this whole class of foams being subject to further regulations, many businesses must now look at changing their

foam stocks. There are alternative fluorine free firefighting (F3) foams that are being adopted by multiple sectors, so safely transitioning away from foam containing PFAS is possible.

Unfortunately, foam transition will not be as simple as it seems. Fluorosurfactants are known to self-assemble on surfaces in crystalline lattices meaning that they coat the interior surfaces of fire suppressions systems. Flushing the system with water will not remove these layers. Following transition to F3 foams the new foam can become significantly contaminated with PFAS unless effective decontamination is done. Some F3 replacement foams have been found to be contaminated with up to 1.6 g/L of PFAS from contamination not removed during the foam changeout, so could also be classed as a stockpile of POPs.

This is where Tetra tech and ProDecon® could help, as we have teamed up to provide an effective decontamination solution using PFAScrub™ which can remove crystalline forms of PFAS from within fire suppression systems. The team also comprises fire and environment engineers to smoothly manage all aspect of a foam transition project, from dealing with fire regulations, insurers etc. to disposing of old foams and environmental compliance. For further information, please contact; mark.mcsorley@prodecon.com and/or ian.ross1@tetrattech.com