

For our Environment

Umwelt   
Bundesamt

Stockholm Water Week 2017

# Contaminants of Emerging Concern and Water Reuse – Approaches to Risk Management and Regulation

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Germany

## Example Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



Source: (1) Jürgen Fälchle (2) Norman Chan, (3) industrieblick, (4) Stillfx, (5) Luisa Leal, (6) Kzeno, (7) demarco, (8) Tobilander/Fotolia.com

## PFAS - Main concerns

- Environmental persistence
- Findings and distribution in surface water
  - one source: waste water
- Long-range transport and findings in remote areas
- Findings and accumulation in food webs and top predators
- Uptake in plants (wheat, maize, vegetables) and enrichment in edible parts
- Findings in food and drinking water
- Occurrence in blood samples and breast milk of the general population (and long elimination half life)
- Toxicological profile (e.g. PFOA Reprotoxic Cat. 1 B)

e.g. [Vierke L. et al. 2012 Environmental Sciences Europe 24:16.](#)



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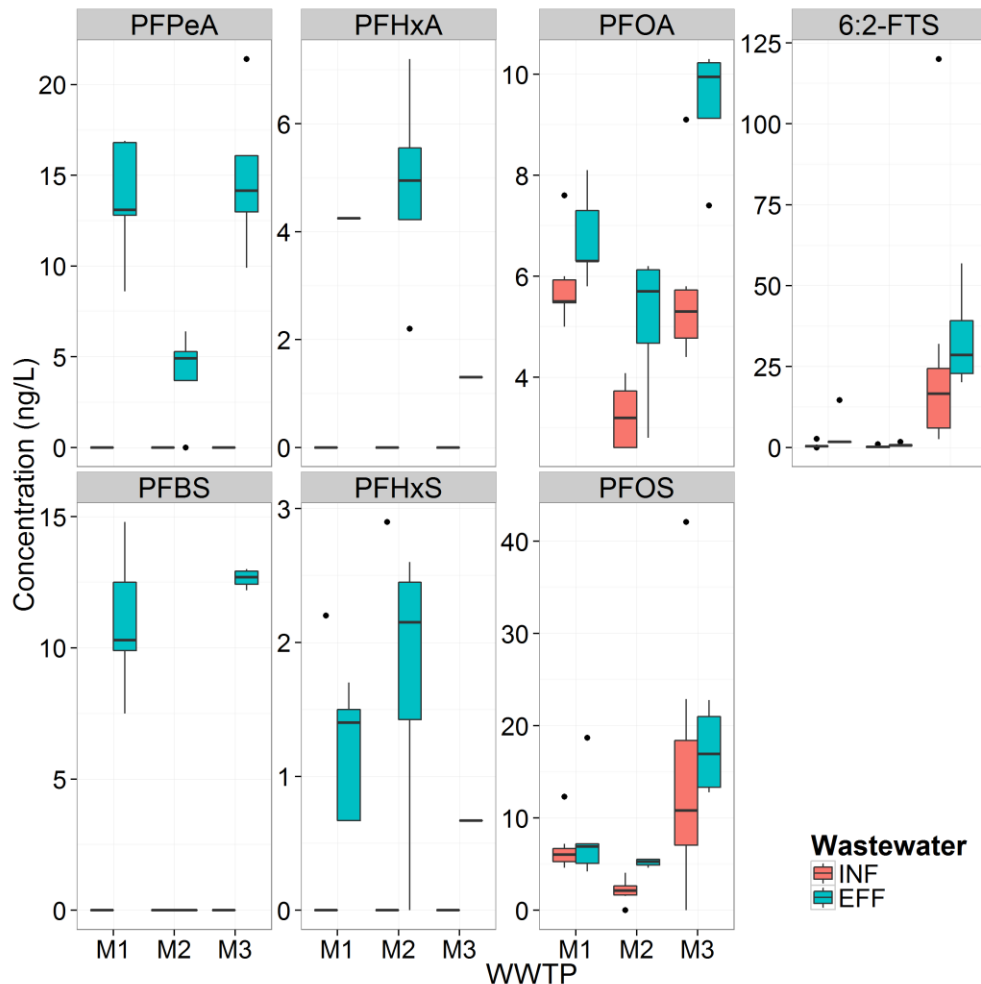


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Marc Rathman\ fotolia.de

## PFAS in Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plants



Box plots of influent and effluent concentrations of PFBA, PFPeA, PFHxA and PFBS, PFHxS and PFOS in municipal WWTPs M1-M3. Concentrations of influent of WWTP-M2 were calculated as weighted average

TEXTE  
08/2016

**Investigations on the presence and behavior of precursors to perfluoroalkyl substances in the environment as a preparation of regulatory measures**

Umwelt Bundesamt  
For our Environment

*UBA-Texte 08/2016: Investigation on the presence and behaviour of precursors to perfluoroalkyl substances in the environment as a preparation of regulatory measures*

## Water reuse



Brussels, 28.4.2017  
SWD(2017) 153 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT  
Agriculture and Sustainable Water Management in the EU



<http://legal-planet.org/2015/12/18/how-do-we-move-past-the-yuck-factor-in-potable-water-reuse/>

## Existing Guidelines

### International Guidelines

WHO	Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater Water Safety Plan, Sanitation Safety Plans. Guidelines for Potable Reuse (upcoming)
ISO	ISO/TC 282 „Water reuse“: ISO 16075 „Water reuse in irrigation“ (more in preparation)
Australia	Australian Guidelines for water recycling: managing health and environmental risk (2006, 2008)
USA	EPA: Guidelines for Water Reuse (2012), California: Regulations Related to Recycled Water (2009) (Title 22)

#### ISO 16075-1:2015

Guidelines for treated wastewater use for irrigation projects  
-- Part 1: The basis of a reuse project for irrigation

#### ISO 16075-2:2015

Guidelines for treated wastewater use for irrigation projects  
-- Part 2: Development of the project

#### ISO 16075-3:2015

Guidelines for treated wastewater use for irrigation projects  
-- Part 3: Components of a reuse project for irrigation

#### ISO 16075-4:2016

Guidelines for treated wastewater use for irrigation projects  
-- Part 4: Monitoring



JRC SCIENCE AND POLICY REPORTS

#### **Water Reuse in Europe**

Relevant guidelines, needs for and barriers to innovation

*A synoptic overview*

Laura Alcalde Sanz, Bernd Manfred Gawlik  
2014



## Regulatory context in the EU

- Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)
- Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC)
- Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC, amended by Directive 2013/39/EU)
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (Directive 91/271/EEC)
- Nitrates Directive (Directive 91/676/EEC)
- Drinking Water Directive (Directive 98/83/EC)
- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
- Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs

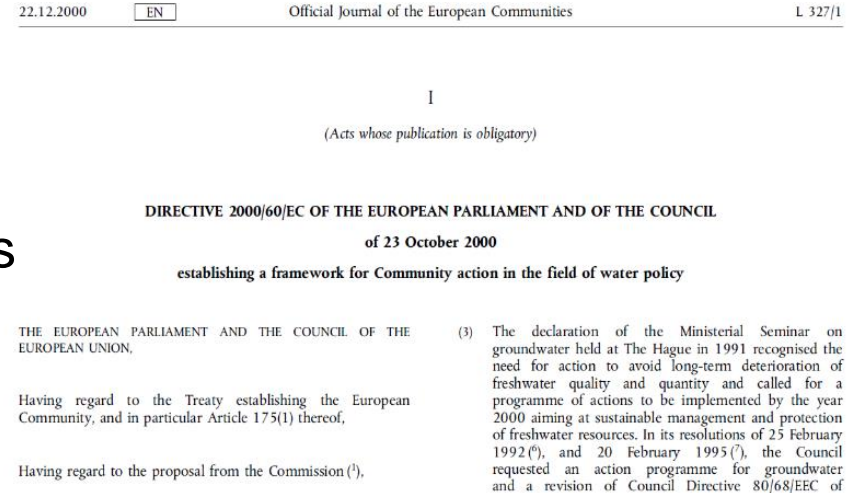
L 330/32	EN	Official Journal of the European Communities	5.12.98
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption			
THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	leaving Member States free to add other parameters if they see fit;		
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and, in particular, Article 130b(1) thereof,	(3)	Whereas, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, Community action must support and supplement action by the competent authorities in the Member States;	
Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),			
Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2),	(4)	Whereas, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the natural and socio-economic differences between the regions of the Union require that most decisions on monitoring, analysis, and the measures to be taken to redress failures be taken at a local, regional or national level insofar as those differences do not detract from the establishment of the framework of laws	
Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (3),			

## Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

**Art.4 (1) a)** ... Member States shall implement the necessary measures to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of surface waters

**Art.4 (1) b)** ... prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater

**Art.11 (3) j)** prohibition of direct discharges of pollutants into groundwater





## Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC)

### Article 6

#### Measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater

1. In order to achieve the objective of preventing or limiting inputs of pollutants into groundwater, established in accordance with Article 4(1)(b)(i) of Directive 2000/60/EC, Member States shall ensure that the programme of measures established in accordance with Article 11 of that Directive includes:

- (a) all measures necessary to prevent inputs into groundwater of any hazardous substances, without prejudice to paragraphs 2 and 3. In identifying such substances, Member States shall in particular take account of hazardous substances belonging to the families or groups of pollutants referred to in points 1 to 6 of Annex VIII to Directive 2000/60/EC, as well as of substances belonging to the families or groups of pollutants referred to in points 7 to 9 of that Annex, where these are considered to be hazardous;
- (b) for pollutants listed in Annex VIII to Directive 2000/60/EC which are not considered hazardous, and any other non-hazardous pollutants not listed in that Annex considered by Member States to present an existing or potential risk of pollution, all measures necessary to limit inputs into groundwater so as to ensure that such inputs do not cause deterioration or significant and sustained

27.12.2006

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 372/19

DIRECTIVE 2006/118/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 12 December 2006

on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (1),

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2),

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251

(5) In order to protect the environment as a whole, and human health in particular, detrimental concentrations of harmful pollutants in groundwater must be avoided, prevented or reduced

(6) Directive 2000/60/EC sets out general provisions for the protection and conservation of groundwater. As provided for in Article 17 of that Directive, measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution should be adopted, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.

➤ Reflecting on Annex VIII to Water Framework Directive

➤ Including CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic toxic for reproduction) substances, endocrine disruptors and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT-) substances

# Environmental Quality Standards

- For certain hazardous chemicals
- Not defined for Contaminants of Emerging Concern

L 348/84 EN Official Journal of the European Union 24.12.2008

## DIRECTIVES

### DIRECTIVE 2008/105/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 2008

on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

account of the available scientific and technical data, environmental conditions in the various regions of the Community, the economic and social development of the Community as a whole and the balanced development of its regions as well as the potential benefits and costs of action or lack of action.

24.8.2013 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 226/1

## I

(Legislative acts)

## DIRECTIVES

### DIRECTIVE 2013/39/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 12 August 2013 amending Directives 2000/60/EC and 2008/105/EC as regards priority substances in the field of water policy

(Text with EEA relevance)

L 348/92 EN Official Journal of the European Union 24.12.2008

## ANNEX I

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PRIORITY SUBSTANCES AND CERTAIN OTHER POLLUTANTS

#### PART A: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS (EQS)

AA: annual average

MAC: maximum allowable concentration

Unit: µg/l

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
No.	Name of substance	CAS number (1)	AA-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	AA-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	MAC-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	MAC-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)
(1)	Alachlor	15972-40-8	0,3	0,3	0,7	0,7
(2)	Atrazine	120-12-7	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,4
(3)	Azinphos	1912-24-9	0,6	0,6	2,0	2,0
(4)	Bentazone	71-43-2	10	8	50	50
(5)	Brominated diphenylether (1)	32534-81-9	0,0005	0,0002	not applicable	not applicable
(6)	Calcium and its compounds (depending on water hardness classes) (2)	7440-43-9	≥ 0,08 (Class 1) 0,08 (Class 2) 0,09 (Class 3) 0,15 (Class 4) 0,25 (Class 5)	0,2	≥ 0,45 (Class 1) 0,45 (Class 2) 0,6 (Class 3) 0,9 (Class 4) 1,5 (Class 5)	≥ 0,45 (Class 1) 0,45 (Class 2) 0,6 (Class 3) 0,9 (Class 4) 1,5 (Class 5)
(6a)	Carbon-tetrachloride (1)	56-23-5	12	12	not applicable	not applicable
(7)	C10-13 Chloroalkanes	85335-84-8	0,4	0,4	1,4	1,4
(8)	Chlorfenvinphos	470-90-6	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,3
(9)	Chlorpyrifos (Chlorpyrifos-ethyl)	2921-88-2	0,03	0,03	0,1	0,1
(9a)	Cyclic-ketone pesticides: Aldrin (1) Dieldrin (1) Endrin (1) Isodrin (1)	309-00-2 40-57-1 72-20-8 465-73-6	Σ = 0,01	Σ = 0,005	not applicable	not applicable
(9b)	DDT total (1) (2)	not applicable	0,025	0,025	not applicable	not applicable
(10)	pan-pas-DDT (1)	50-29-3	0,01	0,01	not applicable	not applicable
(10)	1,2-Dichloroethane	107-06-2	10	10	not applicable	not applicable
(11)	Dichloromethane	75-09-2	20	20	not applicable	not applicable
(12)	Di(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate (DEHP)	117-81-7	1,3	1,3	not applicable	not applicable
(13)	Diazin	330-54-1	0,2	0,2	1,8	1,8
(14)	Endosulfan	115-29-7	0,005	0,0005	0,01	0,004
(15)	Fluoranthene	206-44-0	0,1	0,1	1	1
(16)	Hexachloro-benzene	118-74-1	0,01 (1)	0,01 (1)	0,05	0,05
(17)	Hexachloro-butadiene	87-68-3	0,1 (1)	0,1 (1)	0,6	0,6
(18)	Hexachloro-cyclohexane	108-90-7	0,4	0,4	not applicable	not applicable

24.12.2008 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 348/93

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
No.	Name of substance	CAS number (1)	AA-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	AA-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	MAC-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	MAC-EQS (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)
(19)	Isoproturon	34123-59-6	0,3	0,3	1,0	1,0
(20)	Lead and its compounds	7439-92-1	7,2	7,2	not applicable	not applicable
(21)	Mercury and its compounds	7439-97-6	0,05 (1)	0,05 (1)	0,07	0,07
(22)	Naphthalene	91-20-3	2,4	1,2	not applicable	not applicable
(23)	Nickel and its compounds	7440-02-0	20	20	not applicable	not applicable
(24)	Nonylphenol (4-Nonylphenol)	104-40-5	0,3	0,3	2,0	2,0
(25)	Oxyphenol ((4-(1,1',3,3'-tetramethylbutyl)-phenoxy))	1-40-66-9	0,1	0,01	not applicable	not applicable
(26)	Pentachloro-benzene	608-93-5	0,007	0,0007	not applicable	not applicable
(27)	Pentachloro-phenol	87-86-5	0,4	0,4	1	1
(28)	Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) (1)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
	Benzofluoranthene	205-99-2	Σ = 0,03	Σ = 0,03	not applicable	not applicable
	Benzofluoranthene	207-08-9	Σ = 0,03	Σ = 0,03	not applicable	not applicable
	Benzofluoranthene	191-24-2	Σ = 0,002	Σ = 0,002	not applicable	not applicable
	Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	193-39-5	Σ = 0,002	Σ = 0,002	not applicable	not applicable
(29)	Stenine	1773-34-0	1	1	4	4

## Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the WFD

- EU - Watch list defining monitoring requirements for certain Contaminants of Emerging Concern

L 78/42

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

24.3.2015

## ANNEX

**Watch list of substances for Union-wide monitoring as set out in Article 8b of Directive 2008/105/EC**

Name of substance/group of substances	CAS number <sup>(1)</sup>	EU number <sup>(2)</sup>	Indicative analytical method <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup>	Maximum acceptable method detection limit (ng/l)
17-Alpha-ethinylestradiol (EE2)	57-63-6	200-342-2	Large-volume SPE — LC-MS-MS	0,035
17-Beta-estradiol (E2), Estrone (E1)	50-28-2, 53-16-7	200-023-8	SPE — LC-MS-MS	0,4
Diclofenac	15307-86-5	239-348-5	SPE — LC-MS-MS	10
2,6-Ditert-butyl-4-methylphenol	128-37-0	204-881-4	SPE — GC-MS	3 160
2-Ethylhexyl 4-methoxycinnamate	5466-77-3	226-775-7	SPE — LC-MS-MS or GC-MS	6 000
Macrolide antibiotics <sup>(5)</sup>			SPE — LC-MS-MS	90
Methiocarb	2032-65-7	217-991-2	SPE — LC-MS-MS or GC-MS	10
Neonicotinoids <sup>(7)</sup>			SPE — LC-MS-MS	9
Oxadiazon	19666-30-9	243-215-7	LLE/SPE — GC-MS	88
Tri-allate	2303-17-5	218-962-7	LLE/SPE — GC-MS or LC-MS-MS	670

<sup>(1)</sup> Chemical Abstracts Service.

<sup>(2)</sup> European Union number — not available for all substances.

<sup>(3)</sup> To ensure comparability of results from different Member States, all substances shall be monitored in whole water samples.

<sup>(4)</sup> Extraction methods:

LLE — liquid liquid extraction

## Activities of the European Commission on Water Reuse

„Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources“ (2012):

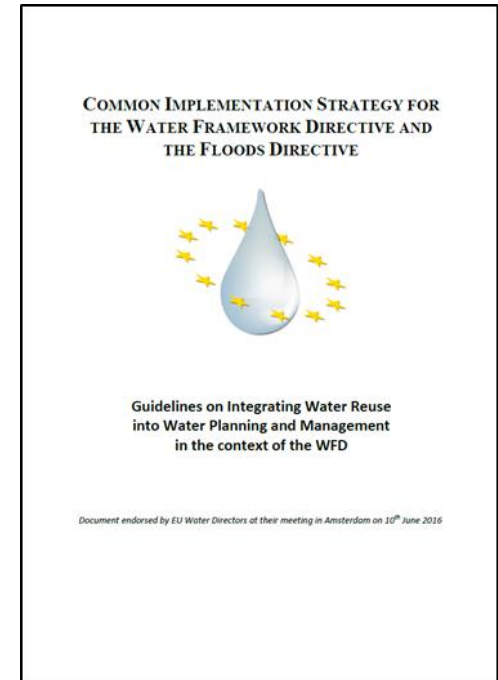
Water reuse as important measure for water scarcity;

objective: establish a common framework for using treated wastewater

Action Plan within the Circular Economy Package (COM(2015(614)):

- CIS-Guideline on Integrating Water Reuse into Water Planning and Management (CIS Ad-hoc Task Group June 2016)
- Development of EU Minimum Quality Requirements for water reuse for irrigation and aquifer recharge (JRC, legislative proposal expected by end of 2017)
- Support for innovation and research
- EU-funds for investment in reuse

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/pdf/Guidelines\\_on\\_water\\_reuse.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/pdf/Guidelines_on_water_reuse.pdf)



## UBA Recommendations for EU minimum quality requirements

- Regional differences of water availability need to be considered
- Ensure compliance with the existing EU regulation
- Implement a systematic and comprehensive risk management approach (e.g. as WHO Water- /Sanitation Safety Plans)
- Ambitious standards for health and environmental protection are needed
- Consider the precautionary principle to address unknown risks of CECs
- Introduce monitoring of CECs and derive quality standards
- Safe reuse requires advanced wastewater treatment
- No aquifer recharge with direct injection

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/uba-position-on-eu-minimum-requirements-for-water>



## Summary

- Reuse of water is a challenging opportunity for water resource management
- One concern for water reuse are Contaminants of Emerging Concern, especially if these substances have hazardous properties
- The risk for consumers and the environment needs to be assessed in advance of reusing water
- In the EU, the Water Framework Directive and Groundwater Directive are defining the good status for surface and ground water, certain monitoring requirements, and risk management responsibilities
- We see a need for monitoring contaminants of emerging concern in waste water and to adapt treatment processes in advance of reusing water

# Thank you for your attention!

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[www.uba.de](http://www.uba.de)

## Definitions: Water Reuse (EU Context)

**Water reuse:** use of treated wastewater for beneficial use after treatment as necessary

**Direct reuse:** direct introduction of treated wastewater from a water treatment plant to a distribution system

**Indirect reuse:** reuse of treated wastewater placed into a water body source (e.g. lake, river, or aquifer) and partly retrieved for later use

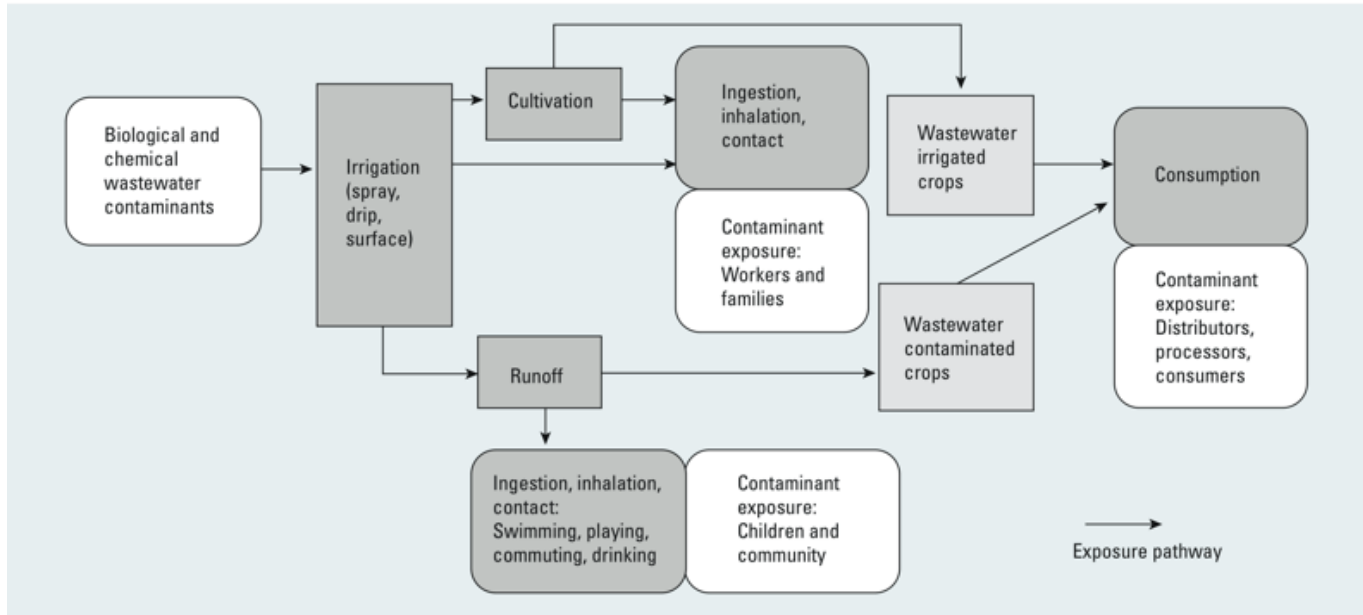
**Planned reuse:** systems developed for water reuse (intended, controlled)

**Unplanned reuse:** uncontrolled, unintended reuse of wastewater after discharge (e.g. downstream users using water from a river which contains wastewater discharged upstream)

**Urban wastewater:** domestic wastewater or the mixture of domestic wastewater with industrial wastewater and/or run-off rain water



## Potential exposure pathways



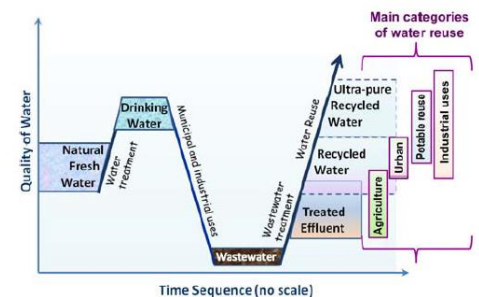
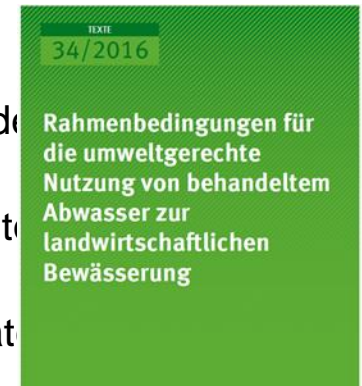
**Table 2. Possible exposure pathways of chemicals to humans via agricultural irrigation**

Pathway	Scenario
• Reclaimed water irrigation → soil → plant uptake → food production → human toxicity	• Ingestion of food plants cultivated on land irrigated with reclaimed water
• Reclaimed water irrigation → soil → plant uptake → animal uptake → human toxicity	• Ingestion of meat/animal products from animals pasture on land irrigated with reclaimed water
• Reclaimed water irrigation → soil → vadoze zone → groundwater → human toxicity	• Ingestion of drinking water produced from groundwater polluted by reclaimed water
• Reclaimed water irrigation → atmosphere → human toxicity	• Inhalation of volatile contaminants during irrigation process

*S. Weber et al. / Desalination 187 (2006) 53–64; Human risk assessment of organic contaminants in reclaimed wastewater used for irrigation*

# UBA Study on agricultural irrigation with treated wastewater

- No nationwide need for irrigation with treated wastewater in Germany Germany: two non-binding DIN norms for hygienic and chemical-physical quality of irrigation water (DIN 19650, DIN 19864-10)
  - Relevant EU Directives: WFD, GWD, UWWTD, Nitrate directive
  - Groudwater protection: Prevent/limit input of pollutants
  - Problematic: micro pollutants in groundwater (e.g. pharmaceutical residues d Wolfsburg, Braunschweig); evidence of accumulation in plants
  - For hygienic safety indicator organisms for viruses would need to be added to Germany
  - To meet the requirements of DIN 19650 for edible crops, conventionally treated („tertiary treatment“) would require additional disinfection
  - Systematic and process oriented risk management is needed
  - Different wastewater treatment technologies are available to reach ne quality – matter of cost-benefit consideration
- ➔ **Conclusion: Due to existing uncertainties in assessing potential h wastewater should only be used for irrigation if no other local w (priority to efficiency measures)**



Lazarova, Valentina, International Water Association; Milestones in Water Reuse: The Best Success Stories (2013)

## PFAS in surface water (ng/l)

		PFBS	PFHxS	PFOS	PFBA	PFHxA	PFOA	PFNA	Reference
West Coast, 2009	<b>South Korea</b>	<0.2 – 16	<0.2 - 8.7	0.4 – 47			0.5 – 31	<0.2 - 5.9	Naile et al., 2010,
River Xi, Fuxin, 2009	<b>China</b>	7 – 445	0.2 - 0.6	0.3 - 0.5			27 - 668	0.4 – 16	Bao et al. 2011,
Rivers, 2010	<b>Japan</b>		nd - 8.4	nd – 97	<1.5 – 18	nd – 16,000	<1.5 – 360	nd – 39	Takamine et al., 2014,
Rivers, 2008	<b>Taiwan</b>			49 – 5,440			11 - 310		Lin et al., 2009
Elbe, 2007	<b>Germany</b>	3.5 - 5.3	0.3 - 0.5	4.1 -6.2	nd - 0.4	1.7 – 2.6	4.4 -4.8	0.7 -1.2	Ahrens et al. 2010.
Baltic Sea, 2007	<b>Baltic Sea</b>	0.3 - 0.9	nd - 0.6	nd - 0.4	nd – 0.4	0.1 - 0.3	0.3 – 4.6	0.1 - 0.4	Ahrens et al. 2010.
Steinbecke, 2005	<b>Germany</b>						33,900		Skutlarek et al. 2006.
Greenland sea 2007-2010		<0.001 - 0.02	nd - 0.04	<0.1 - 0.2		<0.003 - 0.1	0.004 – 0.2	<0.003 - 0.1	Zhao et al. 2012.

## Concerns on certain PFAS – mobility

- Certain PFAS can occur in raw water and can therefore be transferred into drinking water
- Certain PFAS cannot be eliminated from water with the commonly applied measures

(e. g. Lundgren et al. 2014)



Emotionfotolia.com

## Potential exposure of humans via drinking water

### Examples:

- 18% of 85 Spanish tapwater samples (Gellrich et al., 2013)
- 23% of 26 German tapwater samples (Llorca et al., 2012)
- 86% of 7 tapwater samples from six EU Countries (Ullah et al., 2011)
- 49% of 26 waterworks along the river Rhine (Wilhelm et al., 2010)

## Concerns of certain PFAS – Enrichment in plants

- Plant uptake shown by several studies e.g. for wheat, maize, grass and vegetables
- Enrichment in edible parts of plants
- Benchmarking with PFOA: PFHxA higher uptake and higher transfer to edible parts of plants

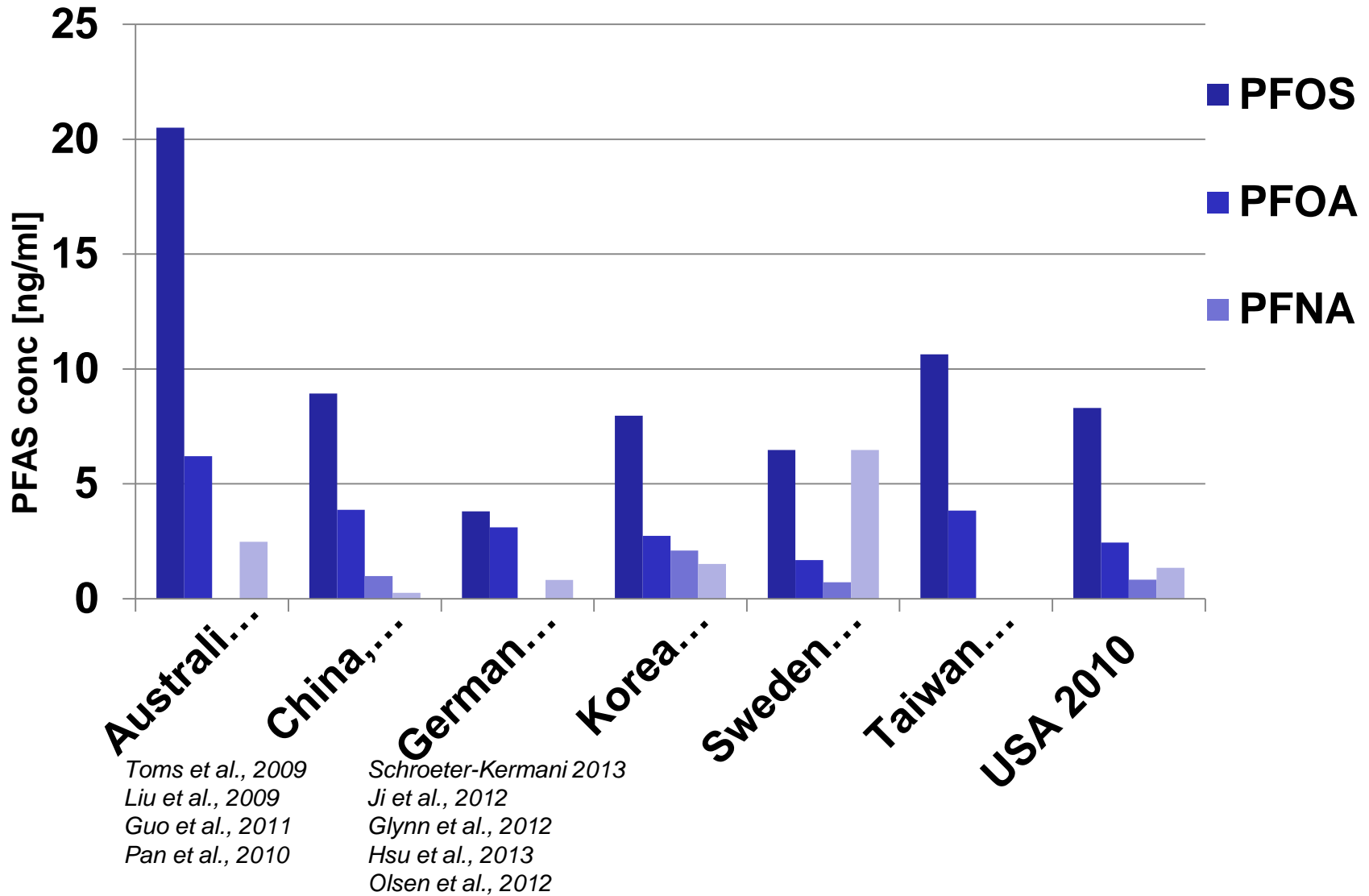
*(Felitzeter et al. 2014; Krippner et al. 2015; Wen et al. 2014; Yoo et al. 2011)*

**Potential exposure of  
humans via food**

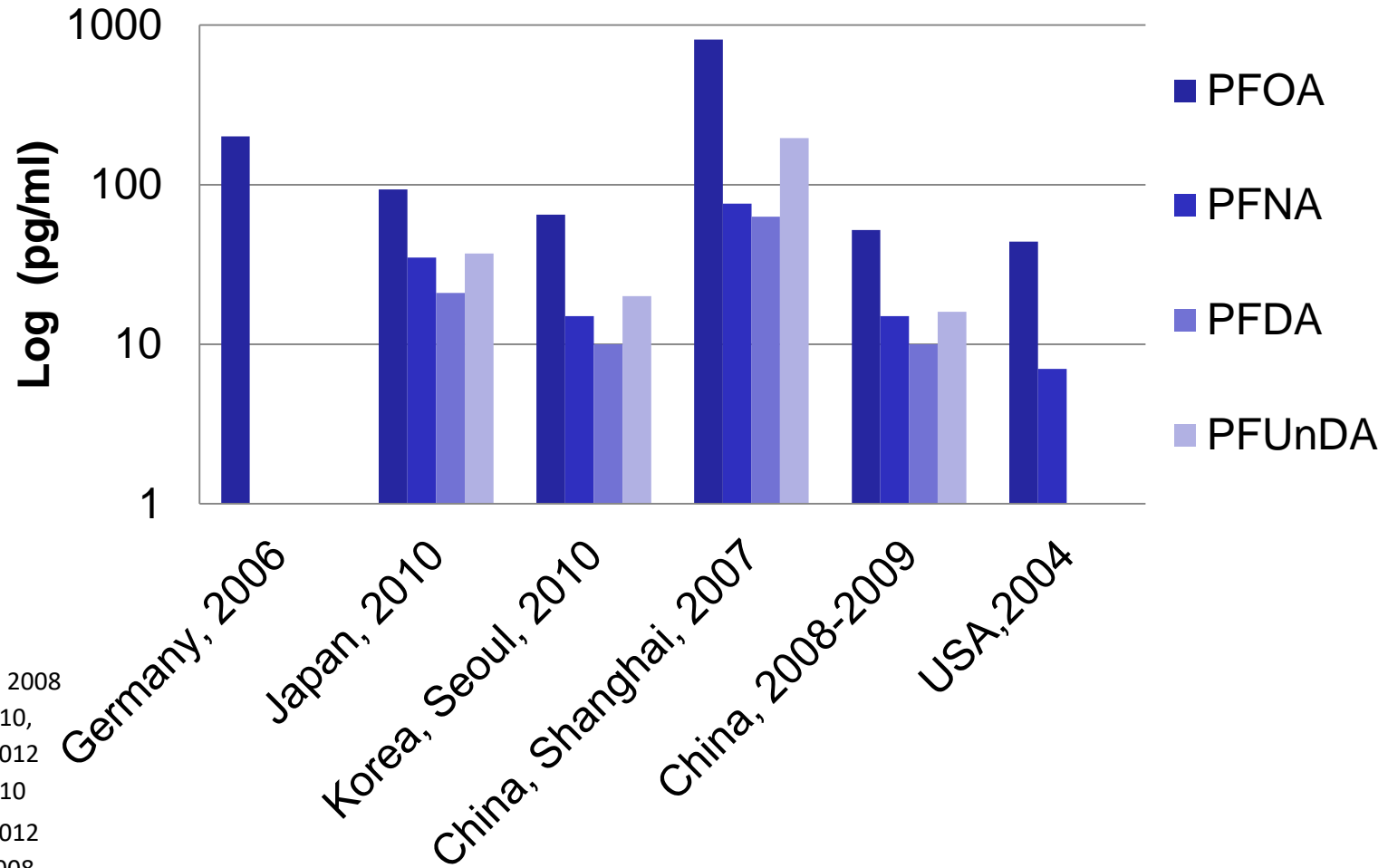


Source: Marc Rathman\ fotolia.de

## Long-chain PFASs in human blood



## Long-chain PFASs in breast milk



Völkel et al., 2008  
Liu et al., 2010,  
Fujii et al., 2012  
Liu et al., 2010  
Fujii et al., 2012  
Tao et al., 2008

## PFAS in Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plants

Analyte	LOD	LOQ	EFF 1	EFF 2	EFF 4	EFF 6
	ng/L					
PFPeA	2.5	5.1	14.0	9.9	21.4	14.3
PFHxA	1.3	6.6	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ
PFHpA	1.0	4.8	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ
PFOA	0.2	2.3	10.2	9.7	10.3	7.4
PFNA	0.3	3.1	<LOQ	n.d.	<LOQ	n.d.
PFDA	0.7	3.3	<LOQ	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
PFBS	0.7	1.3	13.0	12.5	12.2	12.9
PFHxS	0.1	1.3	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ	<LOQ
PFOS	0.4	1.8	22.8	20.4	13.5	12.8
6:2-FTS	0.1	0.3	20.1	56.9	33.3	23.8
8:2-FTS	1.3	2.5	n.d.	<LOQ	n.d.	n.d.

PFAS concentrations in ng/L in the effluent samples of a municipal WWTP. Only substances with at least one detection are shown.

[UBA-Texte 08/2016: Investigation on the presence and behaviour of precursors to perfluoroalkyl substances in the environment as a preparation of regulatory measures](#)

Anal. Bioanal. Chem.  
DOI 10.1007/s00216-016-0072-1



RESEARCH PAPER

### Sampling and simultaneous determination of volatile per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in wastewater treatment plant air and water

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**Abstract** Volatile per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are often used as precursors in the synthesis of non-volatile PFASs. The volatile PFASs, which include the perfluoroalkyl iodides (PFAl), fluorotelomer iodides (FTI), fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOH), fluorotelomer olefins (FTO), fluorotelomer acrylates (FTACs), and fluorotelomer methacrylates (FTMACs), are often produced starting from the telomerization process. These volatile compounds can be present in the air and water environment and can be transformed into highly persistent perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids.

detected at concentrations higher than 40 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. The MDL in water was 10 ng/L. Direct spiking of the cartridges and analyte introduction by volatilization from the glass surface onto the SPE material had recoveries between 86 and 100%. The volatile PFASs were shown to readily partition into the air rather than into water. Consequently, large losses in the amount of PFASs were observed when these were spiked into the water.

**Keywords** Volatile PFAS · GC-MS · WWTP · Influent · Effluent · Air

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### HPLC–MS/MS methods for the determination of 52 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in aqueous samples

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**Abstract** Two quantitative methods using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) combined with triple quadrupole tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) were developed to determine perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in aqueous samples. The first HPLC–MS/MS method was applied to 47 PFASs of 12 different substance classes

substances in the environment. In one exemplary application in an industrial wastewater treatment plant, FTOHs were found to be the major substance class in the influent; in particular, 6:2-FTOH was the predominant compound in the industrial samples and accounted for 74% of the total PFAS concentration. The increase in the concentration of the trans-