



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

DATE: February 6, 2017

TO: Chemicals and Product Safety Subcommittee

CC: Environment Resource Committee

FROM: Stewart Holm
Paul Noe

RE: FYI: Talking Points on perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in paper packaging

Dear Members,

Please find below talking points we have prepared if you receive questions on the news articles regarding perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in paper packaging. The FDA quote is from an article reporting on the subject. I have not found the quote on the FDA website.

Best regards,

Stewart

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For food packaging that requires a barrier coating, old technology “long-chain” fluorochemicals have been replaced by modern “short chain” fluorochemicals. With the techniques used in the study it was expected to see fluorine present. Nonetheless, these substances, similar to any other food packaging, go through rigorous testing and review to ensure that they meet stringent U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations.

FDA spokeswoman Megan McSeveney said the agency has “carefully reviewed the available science” on the short-chain compounds and has not identified any safety concerns. The agency continues to review emerging science, she said.

As to why a few samples contained older PFAS including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). It is difficult to tell with the available data. However, we know that PFOA is no longer used in the US, Japan, and the EU. Some studies have shown that PFOA is still detectable from packaging sourced from countries other than these mentioned.