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PFAS Restrictions in Food Packaging and Consumer Products (United States)

Regulatory Signals · October 2026

A Regulatory signal on US restrictions on PFAS in food packaging: state bans in Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey and New Mexico, and the federal PFAS reporting rule under TSCA. Read for a mid-sized packaging manufacturer that converts film, paper and board for food, beverage and consumer goods brands. Three signals from one cycle.

#	SIGNAL	CONFIDENCE	HORIZON	STATUS
1	Maine's plant-fiber PFAS ban is in force, New Hampshire bans PFAS in all food packaging from January 1, 2027, and New Jersey follows on January 12, 2028	High	Immediate (0–3 months)	Verified
2	EPA moved the start of TSCA PFAS reporting to January 31, 2027 at the latest, and earlier if its pending scope rule takes effect first	High	Immediate (0–3 months)	Review
3	New Mexico bans intentionally added PFAS in food packaging from January 1, 2027, with labeling and first reports due the same day	High	Immediate (0–3 months)	Verified

Every signal rests on two or more dated events. Confidence is published as a band. Where a signal sits below High, the reasoning names the evidence that is missing. Status says where the evidence stands: Verified, Review, or Inconclusive — we looked, and the evidence does not yet support a firmer call.

SIGNAL 1 OF 3

Maine's plant-fiber PFAS ban is in force, New Hampshire bans PFAS in all food packaging from January 1, 2027, and New Jersey follows on January 12, 2028

HIGH Immediate (0–3 months) · Regulatory Agency Actions · **Verified**

Maine's ban on intentionally added PFAS in plant-fiber food packaging took effect May 25, 2026. New Hampshire bans PFAS-added food packaging and containers from January 1, 2027, with no plant-fiber limit. New Jersey adopted Maine's plant-fiber wording in a law approved January 12, 2026, and its ban starts January 12, 2028.

REASONING

Three state laws with dated start points now set three different scopes. Maine covers packaging made in substantial part of paper, paperboard or other plant-fiber material, intended for direct food contact, and only nine types: bags and sleeves, bowls, closed containers, flat serviceware, food boats, open-top containers, pizza boxes, plates, and wraps and liners. New Jersey uses the same plant-fiber wording. New Hampshire covers all food packaging and containers, including coatings, inks, closures and labels. Vermont has banned intentionally added PFAS in any food package, in any amount, since July 1, 2023; Act 131 moved that ban to new statute sections from January 1, 2026 without starting a new one. New Hampshire's statute exempts products made with at least 85% recycled content. How that exemption applies to packaging needs review before anyone relies on it.

PATTERN

April 18, 2024: Maine's Board of Environmental Protection approved Chapter 80 Section 5, the food packaging rule. 2024: New Hampshire enacted its PFAS products law (2024 chapter 349, effective August 2, 2024); amendments in 2025 and 2026 did not move the January 1, 2027 date. January 12, 2026: New Jersey's P.L.2025, c.202 was approved, effective immediately, with the food packaging ban starting two years later. May 25, 2026: Maine's ban took effect. January 1, 2027: New Hampshire's ban takes effect. January 12, 2028: New Jersey's ban takes effect.

IMPLICATION

A converter of paper, board or molded fiber that ships food packaging into all three states faces all three laws. A plastic film or rigid converter is outside Maine's and New Jersey's food packaging scope, but inside New Hampshire's from January 1, 2027. New Hampshire also reaches the coatings, inks, closures and labels a converter buys in, so supplier declarations become part of the compliance file. Separately, Maine's PFAS in Products program covers products sold in fluorinated containers that contain intentionally added PFAS: listed products from January 1, 2026 and all products from January 1, 2032.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

By November 30, 2026, record for each SKU sold into these states the substrate (plant fiber or not) and every coated, inked, labeled or closure component. Clear New Hampshire's January 1, 2027 scope first, and get written PFAS declarations from coating, ink, adhesive and label suppliers for those SKUs.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [Maine Department of Environmental Protection — Toxics in Food Packaging Program, ban effective May 25, 2026](#) — Chapter 80 Section 5, the plant-fiber scope and the nine packaging types.

- [**New Hampshire General Court — RSA 149-M:64, PFAS-added products, ban from January 1, 2027**](#) — Lists food packaging and containers and the 85% recycled-content exemption.
- [**New Jersey Legislature — P.L.2025, c.202 \(S1042\), approved January 12, 2026**](#) — Plant-fiber food packaging definition and the ban two years after enactment.
- [**Maine Department of Environmental Protection — PFAS in Products**](#) — Covers products sold in fluorinated containers with intentionally added PFAS.

SIGNAL 2 OF 3

EPA moved the start of TSCA PFAS reporting to January 31, 2027 at the latest, and earlier if its pending scope rule takes effect first

HIGH Immediate (0–3 months) · Regulatory Agency Actions · **Review**

EPA's TSCA section 8(a)(7) rule requires reports from companies that made or imported PFAS, including PFAS in imported articles, between 2011 and 2022. On April 13, 2026, EPA published a final rule that starts the reporting period on January 31, 2027 or 60 days after a forthcoming scope rule takes effect, whichever is earlier. No final scope rule had been published as of October 21, 2026.

REASONING

Several dated EPA actions show the rule is live but its scope is not settled. Because the start is whichever date is earlier, January 31, 2027 is the latest the period can open; it can open sooner if the scope rule is finalized first. No reporting window has opened yet, so no earlier date has been missed. The status is Review because the November 2025 proposal would exempt PFAS in imported articles, and until a final rule settles that, imported packaging with PFAS-based coatings stays in scope.

PATTERN

October 11, 2023: EPA finalized the original reporting rule. May 2025: an interim final rule set the period at April 13 to October 13, 2026, and to April 13, 2027 for small manufacturers reporting only as article importers. November 13, 2025: EPA proposed scope revisions; comments closed December 29, 2025. April 9, 2026: EPA announced a final rule moving the start. April 13, 2026: the Federal Register published it.

IMPLICATION

For a packaging maker, the exposure is packaging or packaging materials imported with PFAS-based treatments, and any PFAS it made itself. If the article exemption is finalized, much of that exposure may fall away. If it is not, the report is due on a date that can arrive with about two months' notice.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

By December 31, 2026, confirm whether you made or imported PFAS, including in imported articles, between 2011 and 2022, and assemble the purchase and import records now. Track the Federal Register for the final scope rule and set your start date at 60 days after it takes effect, or January 31, 2027 if that comes first.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [US Environmental Protection Agency — Update on reporting deadline for TSCA PFAS reporting rule, April 9, 2026](#) — EPA's announcement of the new start date and its link to the scope rule.
- [Federal Register — Modification to the start of the submission period for PFAS reporting under TSCA 8\(a\)\(7\), April 13, 2026](#) — The final rule: January 31, 2027 or 60 days after the scope rule, whichever is earlier.
- [US Environmental Protection Agency — TSCA section 8\(a\)\(7\) reporting and recordkeeping, rule of October 11, 2023](#) — Program page for the rule: who must report and for which years.

SIGNAL 3 OF 3

New Mexico bans intentionally added PFAS in food packaging from January 1, 2027, with labeling and first reports due the same day

HIGH Immediate (0–3 months) · Regulatory Agency Actions · **Verified**

New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Board approved rule 20.13.2 NMAC in April 2026, and it was published in the New Mexico Register in May 2026. From January 1, 2027, food packaging, cookware and children's products sold in the state may not contain intentionally added PFAS, and labeling and first reports are due on the same date. A second group of products follows on January 1, 2028, and all other products without a currently unavoidable use designation on January 1, 2032.

REASONING

The board approval, the register publication and the opening of the state's reporting system are separate dated actions on one rule, and the January 1, 2027 date is ten weeks away. Unlike Maine and New Jersey, New Mexico's food packaging ban has no plant-fiber limit. The rule's exception route, a currently unavoidable use designation, costs \$5,000 to apply for and \$2,500 to renew, and runs for three years. Once a designation expires, sales become prohibited immediately.

PATTERN

April 2026: the Environmental Improvement Board approved 20.13.2 NMAC. May 2026: the rule was published in the New Mexico Register. July 1, 2026: the state's online reporting system opened for account registration. January 1, 2027: the food packaging, cookware and children's products ban takes effect, with labeling and first reports due. January 1, 2028: the second group of products follows. January 1, 2032: all products without a designation are covered.

IMPLICATION

Every food packaging SKU shipped into New Mexico, in any material, needs a PFAS status before January 1, 2027. A converter that cannot show its coatings, inks and adhesives are free of intentionally added PFAS will face customer requests to prove it or change the material. Where a designation is used, its three-year term creates a recurring renewal date.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

By November 30, 2026, confirm which SKUs shipped into New Mexico carry intentionally added PFAS. For each one, reformulate before January 1, 2027, or file the January 1, 2027 report and labels. Apply for a designation only where no alternative exists, budgeting \$5,000 and a three-year renewal cycle.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [New Mexico Environment Department — PFAS in Products, Manufacturers](#) — January 1, 2027 labeling and report dates, designation fees and the reporting system.
- [New Mexico Environment Department — PFAS in Consumer Products, board approval April 2026](#) — Board approval and the 2027 and 2028 product ban dates.
- [New Mexico Environment Department — Exhibit A, final rule 20.13.2 NMAC, April 2026](#) — Final rule text; an expired designation means sales are prohibited at once.

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