



PFAS and Responsible Use of Fluorinated Chemistry in Digital Infrastructure Applications

The MicroCare Approach

MicroCare recognizes the increasing global focus on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and actively monitors and complies with applicable regulatory requirements across the United States, Europe, and other global markets. We are committed to transparency and to a science-based, risk-informed approach that distinguishes between legacy PFAS substances of concern and modern fluorinated chemistries that provide critical safety and performance benefits.

Products and Applications

Within our Digital Infrastructure portfolio, including Sticklers™ fiber optic cleaning products and MicroCare™ electronics aerosols, fluorinated chemistries are used to support the manufacture, installation, inspection, and maintenance of sensitive electronic and optical systems. These products are designed for applications such as fiber optic end-face cleaning, connector preparation, printed circuit board maintenance, and cleaning of electronic components used in data centers, telecommunications networks, and advanced computing environments.

Why Fluorinated Chemistry Is Used

Digital infrastructure applications require exceptionally high cleanliness standards and low tolerance for risk to sensitive components. In these environments, fluorinated solvents provide a unique and often unmatched combination of properties:

- Non-flammability, reducing fire and ignition risk in dense electronic and data-center environments
- Rapid evaporation with no residue, essential for optical signal integrity and electronic reliability
- Effective removal of oils, particulates, and process contaminants at micro- and nano-scale
- Compatibility with delicate materials, coatings, and plastics commonly used in electronics and fiber optics

These characteristics help prevent signal loss, equipment damage, and unplanned downtime in mission-critical systems.

Stewardship and Regulatory Alignment

Some products in this portfolio may contain fluorinated substances that meet certain regulatory definitions of PFAS. None of the MicroCare products contain intentionally added PFOA, PFOS, other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), or PFAS listed on the U.S. EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) as PFAS of concern. We do not use legacy, bioaccumulative PFAS and continuously evaluate reformulation or substitution opportunities where technically viable alternatives exist.

Regulatory Definitions and Scope

PFAS is a broad regulatory category that may be defined differently across jurisdictions and regulatory programs (including U.S. EPA, EU REACH, and other national frameworks). References to PFAS in this document are based on current regulatory definitions applicable to the markets served and may include certain fluorinated substances used for specific performance and safety purposes. Statements regarding PFAS content refer to intentionally added ingredients and do not account for trace impurities that may be present below analytical detection limits. Regulatory requirements and definitions continue to evolve.

Commitment

MicroCare is committed to supporting the reliability, performance, and safety of global digital infrastructure while acting as a responsible steward of chemistry. Where fluorinated chemistry is necessary, we use it deliberately and responsibly to protect users and sensitive equipment, while continuing to expand PFAS-free options where application requirements allow.