



Are PFAS Regulations the Next Compliance Issue for Your Dental Practice?

What Are PFAS and Why Are They Suddenly Everywhere?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasingly appearing in scientific literature, state and federal legislation, environmental regulations, and public health discourse, yet they remain relatively unfamiliar within many clinical settings, including dentistry.

PFAS are a family of synthetic chemicals often called "forever chemicals" because they break down extremely slowly in the environment. For decades, manufacturers have used PFAS to make products resistant to water, grease, stains, and heat. You may have encountered PFAS in everyday items such as nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging, stain-resistant fabrics, and certain healthcare products. Their effectiveness made them widely used across numerous industries— however, growing concerns about environmental persistence and potential health impacts have prompted regulators to take action.

Connecticut is now among the states leading that effort.

Connecticut's New PFAS Law

In 2024, Connecticut enacted [Public Act 24–59](#), one of the nation's most comprehensive laws addressing *intentionally* added PFAS in consumer products. The legislation defines the term as follows:

"Intentionally added PFAS' means PFAS deliberately added during the manufacture of a product where the continued presence of PFAS is desired in the final product or one of the product's components to perform a specific function."

A product contains intentionally added PFAS if the manufacturer purposely adds a PFAS chemical to give the product a specific function, such as water resistance, stain resistance, nonstick properties, etc. For example, a rain jacket treated to repel water has sufficient cause that PFAS was intentionally added. On the other hand, a product contaminated with trace PFAS during manufacturing is not necessarily intentionally added. Connecticut Public Act No.24-25 mainly targets products where PFAS were deliberately used as ingredients, rather than accidental contamination.

The law creates new requirements for manufacturers and distributors that sell products containing intentionally added PFAS in Connecticut. Beginning in 2026, products must be reported to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and labeled accordingly. Additional restrictions take effect in 2028, when many covered products containing intentionally added PFAS will no longer be permitted for sale, unless an exemption applies. While these requirements primarily apply to manufacturers and suppliers, dental practices may still experience downstream effects.

Why Should Dentists Pay Attention?

At first glance, PFAS regulations may seem unrelated to dentistry. After all, dentists are not being asked to register products with the state or submit PFAS reports.

However, many dental offices depend on products that originate from manufacturers now subject to these regulations. As suppliers work to comply, practices may notice changes in product availability, labeling, formulation, and cost.

Think of it like a supply-chain ripple effect. The regulation starts with manufacturers, but its impact can eventually reach everyone who purchases and uses those products.

Where Could PFAS Show Up in a Dental Setting?

While product formulations vary by manufacturer, PFAS have historically been used in products that require water resistance, chemical resistance, durability, or nonstick properties.

Potential examples include:

- Dental floss
- Protective gowns and apparel
- Certain disposable products
- Packaging materials
- Surface treatments and specialty coatings
- Various healthcare textiles

The presence of PFAS does not necessarily mean a product is unsafe or prohibited today. Rather, Connecticut's law focuses on increasing transparency and gradually reducing the use of intentionally added PFAS in certain product categories.

What Changes Might Dental Practices Notice?

New Product Labeling

Beginning on July 1st, 2026, covered products containing intentionally added PFAS may carry labels indicating their presence. For practice owners and office managers, this could mean seeing new disclosures on products that have been purchased for years without similar labeling. Acceptable labels in Connecticut now include an outline of an Erlenmeyer flask with both the word PFAS and an exclamation point inside the flask:



Supply Chain Adjustments

Manufacturers may reformulate products to remove PFAS or introduce alternative versions designed to comply with future restrictions. As a result, some familiar products could be replaced with newer formulations or alternatives.

Patient Questions

PFAS has become an increasingly visible public health topic. As media coverage continues, dentists may receive questions from patients regarding PFAS-containing products or broader environmental concerns. Having a basic understanding of the issue can help practices respond confidently and direct patients to reliable sources of information.

What Should Your Practice Do?

Fortunately, most dental offices do not need to take immediate action. Instead, consider the following:

Stay Informed

Monitor updates from manufacturers, suppliers, professional associations, and regulators regarding PFAS-related changes.

Review Vendor Communications

Pay attention to product notices, reformulations, and labeling updates that may affect products currently used in your practice.

Evaluate Alternatives

If PFAS-free alternatives become available, discuss options with suppliers and determine whether changes make sense for your practice.

Educate Your Team

Ensure that practice leadership and staff understand the basics of PFAS and Connecticut's new requirements so they can answer questions from patients and colleagues.

Looking Ahead

Connecticut's PFAS legislation reflects a broader trend toward increased scrutiny of chemicals used in consumer and healthcare products. Similar laws are being adopted across the country and additional regulatory developments are likely in the coming years. For dentists, the most significant impacts will likely come through product manufacturers and suppliers, rather than direct regulatory obligations. Nevertheless, understanding these changes now can help practices prepare for future product transitions and patient inquiries. As implementation of Public Act 24-59 continues, staying informed will help ensure your practice remains ready for whatever changes may be ahead.

Key Dates to Remember:

July 1, 2026

- *Reporting requirements begin for many covered products containing intentionally added PFAS.*
- *Certain products must carry PFAS labeling.*

January 1, 2028

- *Connecticut begins restricting the sale of many covered products containing intentionally added PFAS unless exemptions apply.*