AUTO CARE ASSOCIATION | STATE PFAS COMPLIANCE SERIES

Rhode Island PFAS Compliance

Consumer PFAS Ban Act of 2024, R.I. Gen. Laws 23-18.18, as amended in 2026 (H 7734).
Sales bans and civil penalties begin January 1, 2027



WHAT IS PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of fluorinated chemicals. Rhode Island bans **intentionally added** PFAS: PFAS added to a covered product or component to provide a specific characteristic, including degradation by-products. PFAS used as a processing agent, mold release agent, or intermediate counts if it is detected in the final product.

WHO MUST COMPLY

No person may manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale a covered product with intentionally added PFAS in Rhode Island. The 2026 amendments extend the law to products sold for commercial and industrial use, not just consumer use, which brings the shop and fleet channel into scope.

KEY DATES AND SALES BANS

Date	What happens
Jan 1, 2027	Banned: carpets or rugs, cookware, cosmetics, fabric treatments, juvenile products, menstrual products, ski wax, textile articles, firefighting protective equipment. Civil penalties begin
Jan 1, 2029	Banned: artificial turf; outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions unless labeled "Made with PFAS chemicals"

WHAT TO REPORT

Rhode Island has no product reporting requirement. If the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) believes a product violates the ban, it may direct the manufacturer, within 30 days, to certify that the product has no intentionally added PFAS, or to notify sellers that it is prohibited and give DEM the list.

AUTOMOTIVE AFTERMARKET PRODUCTS IN SCOPE

- **Fabric treatments:** substances applied to fabric to give it characteristics such as stain or water resistance. Aftermarket fabric and upholstery protectants may fall in this category.
- **Carpets or rugs:** excludes carpets intended solely for use inside vehicles, and aftermarket or replacement parts marketed solely for vehicles.
- **Textile articles:** textile goods customarily used in households and businesses. Aftermarket seat covers may fall in this category; confirm against the definitions.
- **Juvenile products:** include child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles.
- **Cleaning products are not covered.**

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions

- Sale or resale of used products
- **DEM exemption:** manufacturers may apply for an exemption for a product or category where no comparable PFAS-free product is available at reasonable cost, and the use is beneficial to the environment or protective of public health or safety, or there is no technically feasible alternative. Exemptions last up to five years and can be renewed. Applications are sworn and notarized and go to DEM by email.

Penalties and enforcement

- **Civil penalties** from Jan 1, 2027: up to $1,000 for a first violation and up to $5,000 for each later violation.

HOW TO COMPLY

Manufacturers and suppliers

- Confirm which protectants, mats, covers, and textiles contain intentionally added PFAS
- Include products sold for commercial and industrial use
- Apply for a DEM exemption now if PFAS is essential
- Be ready to certify compliance within 30 days

Distributors

- Stop distributing covered products with intentionally added PFAS on Jan 1, 2027
- Ask suppliers to confirm PFAS status

Retailers

- Stop selling covered products with intentionally added PFAS on Jan 1, 2027
- Act on manufacturer or DEM notices that a product is prohibited

RESOURCES

R.I. Gen. Laws 23-18.18 (statute) | 2026 amendment, H 7734 Sub A | DEM PFAS in Consumer Products | DEM exemption guidance
Agency questions: DEM.PFASProduct@dem.ri.gov | Association questions: govaffairs@autocare.org

Current as of October 21, 2026. For awareness only, not legal advice. Confirm obligations with DEM or your counsel.