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US state regulators eye NGO's PFAS cookware directory as compliance resource

Growing role for third-party sources likely, expert says

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US state regulators have signalled that a public directory compiling PFAS disclosures from more than 200 cookware brands could aid enforcement efforts as jurisdictions begin implementing PFAS product restrictions.

Launched in July by Maine-based environmental group Defend Our Health (DOH), the directory aggregates disclosures made under California law ([AB 1200](#)), which requires cookware manufacturers to reveal the presence of certain chemicals in their products. Users can search brands' disclosure pages to see whether manufacturers have publicly reported the use of PFAS in cookware, bakeware and certain kitchen appliances.

But while the directory was developed as a consumer resource, it may also be relevant to agencies responsible for enforcing state-level PFAS restrictions. For example, Maine regulators told Chemical Watch News & Insight that information provided by DOH has already prompted investigations into the possible sale of prohibited cookware products.

The issue may become increasingly important as more states implement restrictions on PFAS in cookware. Minnesota's ban on PFAS-containing cookware took effect [in 2025](#), while restrictions in [Maine](#) and [Colorado](#) began this year.

Meanwhile, laws in [New Mexico](#) and [Rhode Island](#) will prohibit intentionally added PFAS in cookware and certain other products from 2027, while [Connecticut](#) and [Vermont](#) will ban the sale of PFAS-containing cookware from 2028.

Against that backdrop, observers said the directory may represent an early example of [a broader trend](#): NGOs helping state agencies identify [potential violations](#) of PFAS laws as regulators grapple with [limited resources](#) and expanding [compliance obligations](#).

Directory addresses compliance challenges

DOH executive director Emily Carey said the directory grew out of discussions with Maine regulators about how to monitor compliance after the state's PFAS restrictions [took effect](#) earlier this year.

Because Maine lacks a PFAS reporting programme and has limited resources for testing and enforcement, Carey said DOH turned to California's cookware disclosure scheme to identify products that may warrant compliance outreach.

"They've got this rule in Maine, but they don't have data on which products PFAS [are] actually in. They have this disclosure requirement in California, but they don't have a sales ban. Let's match them up," she said.

Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said that due to limited resources, it enforces PFAS prohibitions through "complaint response", and that information provided by DOH has already contributed to compliance efforts.

"DOH has notified DEP of prohibited products they have evidence were available for sale in Maine," the department said. "DEP has contacted manufacturers, and our investigation of those complaints is ongoing."

According to Carey, regulators in multiple states provided guidance as DOH assembled the directory, and other agencies have expressed interest in it as they implement PFAS restrictions.

"We also think this can be a resource for policymakers and legislators in other states who are considering additional sales bans or reporting requirements," she said.

Implications for industry

David Quigley, a partner at law firm Akin Gump, said companies should expect regulators to pay more attention to third-party information sources in the future.

As an example, Quigley pointed to New Mexico's [ongoing implementation](#) of its PFAS law (HB 212), which will restrict the intentional use of PFAS in cookware and other products beginning in 2027.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a [guidance document](#) in July stating that enforcement may be supported by product testing when the department has "reasonable suspicion" that a manufacturer failed to comply with the state's PFAS restrictions.

That language suggests resources like the DOH directory could become increasingly relevant in helping regulators identify products that warrant additional scrutiny, according to Quigley.

"They are somewhat vague as to where that 'reasonable suspicion' comes from, but these reports certainly seem to fit the bill," he said. "My sense is that many states will take a similar approach, given the resource challenges if nothing else."

Bobby DeMuro

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[DOH cookware directory](#) →

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