

Response provided to journalist
8 July 2016

Questions:

Could you please confirm when defence stopped using the foams containing PFOS and PFOA on defence bases?

Also, do defence bases such as Oakey hold stocks of the foam?

Response:

Defence acknowledges the announcement made by the Queensland State Government on the phase out policy for legacy aqueous film forming foams.

Defence does not maintain stocks of the legacy aqueous film forming foams.

From 2004 - 2011, Defence phased out the legacy aqueous film forming foams. Defence transitioned to a new, more environmentally friendly product called Ansulite for use on the Defence estate. Ansulite is used by Defence in emergency situations where human life is at risk, or in controlled environments to test equipment. Any Ansulite used for testing is captured and treated and/or disposed of at licensed waste disposal facilities.

Defence is currently finalising a detailed environmental investigation to identify the extent and levels of PFOS and PFOA compounds on, and in the vicinity of, Army Aviation Centre - Oakey. All detailed site investigations, comprising of a preliminary site investigation and detailed site investigation, are undertaken in accordance with the National Environment Protection Measure Framework (NEPM), specifically the Assessment of Site Contamination measure.

Further information on Oakey environmental investigation, please refer to the Defence website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/PFOSPFOA/>