

Numerous studies conducted by industry on PFOA and its salts have included toxicological studies in rodents and monkeys, biomonitoring studies of workers and the general US population, epidemiology studies, and biomonitoring studies of the wildlife in the US. These studies have shown that PFOA is also highly persistent in the environment and does not hydrolyze, photolyze or biodegrade under environmental conditions. PFOA is also highly persistent in humans, is not metabolized and has a half life of several years. The biomonitoring studies have shown that it is present in the general US population and the wildlife. At present, the sources and pathways of exposure are unknown. Toxicological studies in rodents and primates have shown that exposure to PFOA can result in a variety of effects including developmental/reproductive toxicity, liver toxicity and cancer.

Given that PFOA is present in the general US population and its toxicological profile, OPPT determined the need to conduct a risk assessment. This preliminary risk assessment places emphasis on the developmental/reproductive endpoints. The tumors (liver, pancreas and Leydig cell) observed in the cancer bioassays are thought to be directly or indirectly related to