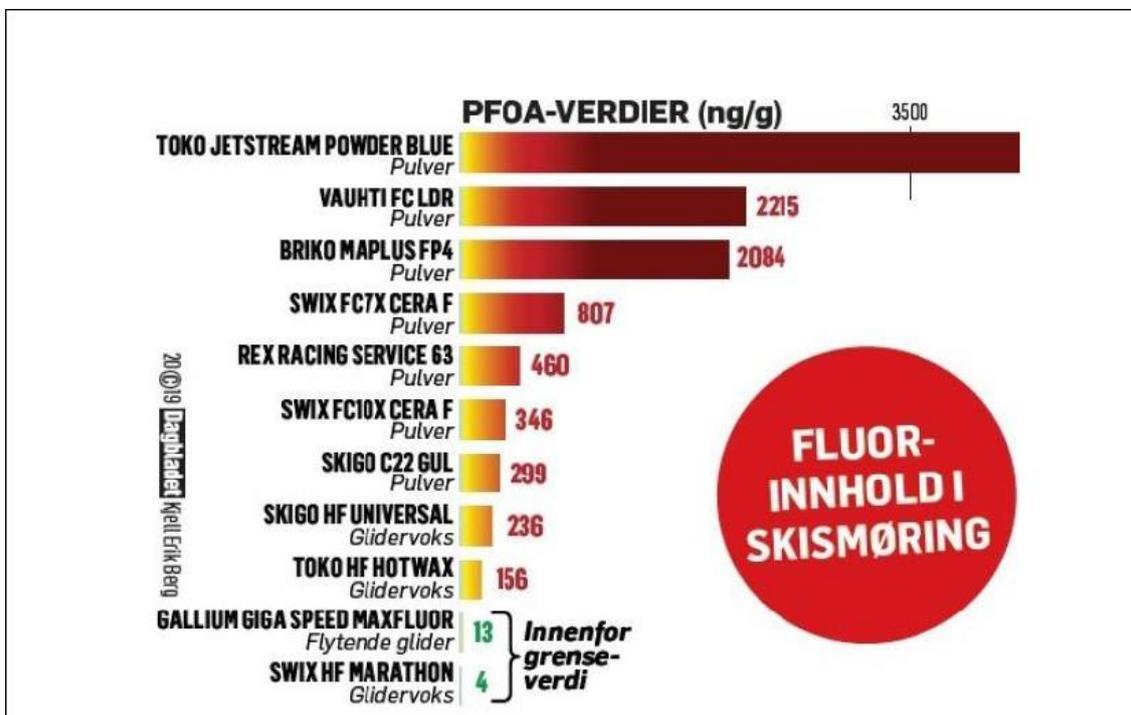


Why Ban Fluoros?

In the last decade, a number of scientific publications have dealt with the effects of fluorinated waxes on humans and the environment. Perfluorooctanoic acid (abbreviated PFOA), a synthetic chemical believed to have toxicological properties of concern, has been detected in the blood of professional ski technicians at concentrations much higher than those now considered safe by the monitoring agencies. In spite of these alarming findings, there was little change in the level and mode of application of fluoro waxes by the average user.

A series of nearly fifty articles about this issue, published in 2019 by the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet, created uproar in a number of European countries. (These articles can be found at <https://www.dagbladet.no/glidens-pris/> and can be translated with the Google Translate option.) The newspaper reported on a number of illnesses and deaths where high incidence of PFOA-containing fluoro wax use was investigated as a cause. They also obtained eleven popular fluoro waxes from retail outlets and had them analyzed for PFOA content. Regulation EU2020 mandates a content below 25ng/g (equivalent to 25 parts per BILLION), and all but two of the waxes tested showed astonishingly high levels of PFOA. The Dagbladet-published chart below provides some detail but, for example:

The Toko Jetstream sample was found to contain 3500 ng/g, 140 times the EU2020 level; Briko PF4 contained 2084 ng/g, 83 times the EU2020 level; Swix Cera FC7X contained 807 ng/g, 32 times the EU2020 level. Dagbladet's chart indicated that nine of the eleven fluoro waxes tested are deemed very hazardous based on EU2020.



Excerpted from <https://www.dagbladet.no/sport/populaere-skiprodukter-fulle-av-gift/71866854>

Other Dagbladet articles reported that higher-than-considered-safe levels of PFOA were found in the blood of workers in the factory of a major European wax manufacturer and most of professional ski waxers that were monitored. The newspaper also reported a number of serious illnesses and even deaths, where heavy use of PFOA-containing fluoro waxes may have been an unconfirmed but alarming factor.

Concerns about PFOA-containing waxes generated reactions from a number of organizing bodies and ski areas. The Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association banned the use of all fluoro waxes and overlays starting this season (2019-2020); the FIS also banned all types of fluoros, starting in the 2020-2021 season; and, a number of cross-country ski areas prohibit the use of fluoro waxes on their trails.