

Q&A with Roman Kumpost on the ban on fluorinated waxes

At the Council Meeting this week, an update was given by the appointed Fluor Working Group Chairman Roman Kumpost regarding the banning of the use of fluorinated waxes across all FIS disciplines starting next season. On behalf of the Working Group, Mr. Kumpost reported that the project is on schedule to being implemented for the 2020-21 season. Below he answers some questions about the process and what to expect next season.

Mr. Kumpost, you are the chairman of the working group, can you give a little history on why this working group was formed?

Kumpost: In November 2019, the FIS Council decided to ban the use of fluorinated waxes starting from the season 2020-21 because it has been shown they have a negative impact on both the health of people working with the wax and a harmful impact on the environment. Regulations have been established in USA that are already in place and will be implemented in the EU from July 2020 which impact the manufacturer of these products. Because it was a decision that has an impact on all FIS disciplines and our colleagues from IBU Biathlon, which all use ski wax, the working group was formed to ensure any

decision we made would work for all of the involved stakeholders.

Some thought it was a very tight timeline to accomplish this goal. Do you agree?

Kumpost: On one hand yes, but we have a very competent and motivated group and quickly found partners that could help develop and implement the technology. We contracted the company Kompass to run the development of hand-held detector testing devices that will be certified by the Fraunhofer Institute and tested during the summer months. Thereafter they will also be made available for the tests with the industry and teams. Subject to successful test of the prototype testing devices, the controls will be implemented from November 2020.

So how will the testing work?

Kumpost: Every FIS discipline has a different operational handling for equipment testing so it will vary largely from discipline to discipline, but the hand held device will be used as part of the normal equipment testing procedure before the start and after the finish of competitions. So, for example, in Alpine Skiing, when a racer crosses the finish line their skis are always measured for length and other parameters at this same time, the hand held detector will also be used additionally to the control

before start. Ski Jumping material control before start has been in place for years. From this point of view the use of the fluor detecton device will be nothing new for the teams and competitors.

With this being a new rule, will there be a level of tolerance in the first season?

Kumpost: For the upcoming 2020-21 season, the measurement limit (tolerance) will be defined in order to discriminate between the use of fluorinated waxes and a potential contamination or an incomplete cleaning of the preexisting material. The measurement limit will be fixed based on the experience of the testing and validation phase in the summer 2020.

Starting with the 2021-22 season, after evaluation from the first season the tolerance will be already lowered to a possible minimum.

The goal of FIS is to receive "zero" level at latest in the season 2022-23.

But despite the above tolerance, the ban will go into effect starting with the 2020-21 season?

Kumpost: Yes, correct. The use of fluorinated waxes in all FIS disciplines is not allowed anymore and we will start to control the ban with the start of the upcoming season 2020/21. The tolerance mentioned above will be minimal

and ensures a smooth transition for all stakeholders.