

Guide to supply chain management

Guidelines and requirements for management of chemicals in textiles

Version 1 – updated 24th November 2015

This guide has been prepared by a range of different textile companies as well as trade- and labelling organizations in Denmark and will help you to get an overview of the most important aspects when it comes to management of problematic chemicals in textile products. The purpose of this guide is to give inspiration of how to address the complex issue of setting requirements for problematic chemicals in textiles.

This guide contains the following aspects:

- Quick guide
- Responsible supply chain management
- Criteria for labelling
- Lists of problematic chemicals in textiles
- Cases
- Tools and organizations
- About the guideline

The **quick guide** contains the most important aspects of this guide that are need to know for companies being in the textile business. I.e. the quick guide contains a listing of relevant legislation and useful links.

The section on **responsible supply chain management** describes useful standards and reporting systems within the field of supply chain management and gives useful links to supplier management.

An overview of examples of existing labelling schemes on the textile area is given in the section **criteria for labelling**.

The legislation regarding chemicals in textiles is described in the section **lists of problematic chemicals in textiles**. In this section, you can also find different examples of negative lists (lists of problematic chemicals in textiles) and positive lists as well as several relevant studies concerning problematic chemicals in textiles.

In the section **cases**, a couple of Danish textile companies have described how they reduce the use of problematic chemicals in their textiles.

Examples of useful **tools and organizations** that can help you to identify problematic chemicals in your supply chain are listed.

Finally, in the section **about the guideline** you will find background information about the persons/companies who have contributed to the making of this guideline.

Quick guide

This section provides a quick guide focusing on the most important areas within management of chemicals, meaning the areas that are *need to know* when being in the textile business.

Legislation:

- The General Product Safety Directive
- REACH
- Candidate List
- Regulation on persistent organic pollutants
- Flame retardants (Paragraph 2.7.3 p. 37)
- Overview of rules for textiles (in Danish)

Quality and environmental international standards:

- ISO 9001 – Quality management
- ISO 14001 – Environmental management

Useful links to supplier management:

- Responsible supply chain management
- Code of conducts

You can find more information in the guide:

Quick guide

Responsible supply chain management

Criteria for labelling

List of problematic chemicals in textiles

Cases

Tools and organizations

About the guideline

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Responsible supply chain management

The purpose of this page is to provide guidance on what to be aware of in the collaboration with suppliers in order to manage the use of chemicals in the supply chain. It is essential to know that your suppliers are able to manage chemicals in order to secure your responsible processing and products. This page will provide you with links to useful webpages describing how to manage suppliers, which requirements to set and how to follow up on these. Furthermore, useful standards and reporting systems are outlined to give you an overview of some of the possibilities for systemizing the management of chemicals in your supply chain.

Useful links to supplier management

[Guidance for Suppliers of Articles - The REACH duties to inform about Candidate List substances](#)

This Guidance document provides practical advice for suppliers of articles on how to carry out their legal duties to inform about contents of chemical substances listed on the so-called Candidate List. Both professional customers and consumers must be provided with such information. These duties are included in the EU Regulation REACH. The Guidance document has been elaborated in co-operation between authorities responsible for REACH in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Read more [here](#)

CSR compass

This webpage gives some advice on how to manage suppliers and these links guides you to manage your suppliers in a responsible way:

[Responsible supply chain management](#)

[Chemicals and hazardous substances](#)

[Water and wastewater](#)

Handbook from Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH)

“Good Environmental Practices – A Practical Handbook for Suppliers and Sub-suppliers”

Find the handbook [here](#)

Code of conduct DM&T (in Danish)

The Code of Conduct describes the CSR principles that the supplier’s processes are expected to handle as well as the demands to the supplier’s processes.

Find the code of conduct [here](#)

Danish guidance for import of articles (REACH) (in Danish)

The Danish Chamber of Commerce has prepared a guidance document, which describes how to handle chemical substances in textiles.

Read the guidance [here](#)

Advice to small businesses (in Danish)

The Danish EPA has created a webpage with advice for small businesses about the contact with sub-contractors. The page contains information about restrictions of chemicals; how to make demands on the sub-contractor and how to control your products.

Read more [here](#)

Useful standards and reporting systems

A management system is working with preparation and implementation of politics, requirements, working procedures as well as monitoring, follow-up and continuous improvement within the company and for outsourced processes. By implementing a management system, the company will gain knowledge about which areas are found to be essential to monitor. These areas are audited (if the management system is certified) by a third party and can be used as a check list for effective internal auditing carried out by the company itself. It may be an advantage to have a management system implemented at the company itself together with a requirement of a certification of suppliers. Examples of recognized management systems, which can be used to ensure, that you have your suppliers under control and that your suppliers have their processes under control – including the chemicals, are:

Quality and environmental international standards:

- **ISO 9001:** The standards provide guidance and tools for companies and organizations who want to ensure that their products and services consistently meet customer's requirements and that quality is consistently improved.
- **ISO 14001:** The ISO 14000 family of standards provides practical tools for companies and organizations of all kinds looking to manage their environmental responsibilities.

Reporting and management schemes:

- **EMAS - Eco-Management and Audit Scheme:** EU's environmental management system – it is voluntary and aimed at all types of businesses.
- **GRI - Global Reporting Initiative:** GRI is a Sustainability Reporting Framework made for reporting sustainability in terms of economic, environmental and social impacts (Global Reporting Initiative, 2013).

Health and safety standards:

- **OHSAS 18001 - Occupational Health & Safety Advisory Services:** The OHSAS 18001 standard is an international occupational health and safety management system (Dansk Standard - OHSAS 18001, 2013).

- **SA 8000 - Social Accountability:** One of the world's first auditable social certification standards for decent workplaces, across all industrial sectors. It is based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, conventions of the ILO, UN and national law, and spans industry and corporate codes to create a common language to measure social performance.

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Criteria for labelling

A way to set useful demands regarding environmental and/or health issues is to choose to label your product. Labels set requirements which are different and/or more than the law dictates. By choosing a label you will also have more basis for environmental and/or health claims in your marketing.

There are many kinds of labels, with different focus, levels of requirements and documentation requirements. Some labels focus on the end-product, others on fibers, others on chemicals and so on. Some labels have requirements to the whole life cycle of the product. The level of verification is also different. The government officially recognizes the labels EU Ecolabel (EU blomsten) and Nordic Ecolabel (Svanemærket).

Below you find some of the most used labels and an overview of some of the areas they focus on. The specific criteria for the various areas differ greatly among the labels. As an example, the requirements on organic cotton can vary from a few % to 100 % in the different labels. Demand for documentation also differs and it is necessary to visit the websites to get further information about the requirements. The criteria are revised continuously and therefore go to the website if you want to make sure you get the updated criteria.

Examples of existing labelling

	REDUCED CHEMICALS	ORGANIC RAW MATERIAL	WATER EFFICIENT	REDUCED ENERGY	RECYCLING	HEALTH & SAFETY During production	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	ANIMAL WELFARE	CONSUMER SAFETY	END USE	LINK AND DESCRIPTION
Nordic Ecolabel / Svanemærket	YES	(YES)			(YES)	YES	YES	YES	YES		www.ecolabel.dk Environmental, health and quality requirements. Both the production of the fibre and the use of chemicals during production are central to the criteria. The requirements focus on reducing the environmental impact of the production and consider the health of both workers and consumers.
EU Ecolabel / EU Blomsten	YES	(YES)	YES	YES	(YES)	YES	YES		YES		www.ecolabel.dk Environmental, health and quality requirements. Both the production of the fibre and the use of chemicals during production are central to the criteria. The requirements focus on reducing the environmental impact of the production and consider the health of both workers and consumers.
GOTS	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		www.global-standard.org GOTS is recognized as the leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibres worldwide. It defines high level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain of organic textiles and requires compliance with social criteria as well. Yearly onsite third party certification
Cotton made in Africa (CmiA)	YES	YES	YES			YES	YES				www.cottonmadein africa.org Cotton made in Africa is an initiative for environmental-friendly and ethically produced African cotton. Its standards incorporates social, environmental, and economic criteria on cotton cultivation and ginning level. Their compliance are continuously reviewed by independent third parties. CmiA cotton can be included into the cotton mix according to its Mass Balance System or traced from cotton growing up to the final product according to its Hand Identity Preserved System. Partnering retailers and brands can integrate CmiA cotton in their supply chains worldwide and profit from its supply chain support as well as achievements for their product labelling and cooperate communication. CmiA also offers organic cotton combining its social and economic criteria with standards for organic cotton production.
Der Blau Engel	YES		YES	Yes	YES	YES			YES		www.blauer-engel.de/en/ www.bluesign.com
bluesign®	Yes		YES	Yes		YES	YES		YES		The bluesign® system focuses on resources, people and the environment. With its holistic approach based on Input Stream Management, the bluesign® system reduces the impact on people and on the environment, ensures responsible use of resources and guarantees the highest level of consumer safety. The most stringent criteria and monitoring of on-site implementation encourage companies along the entire textile value chain to improve their sustainability performance.

											The companies responsibility needs a commitment by signing a bluesign® system partner agreement. Certification is possible for all kind of textiles and accessories along the whole value chain including products from converter and brands.
Soil Association	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	www.soilassociation.org
Global Recycle Standard	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	www.textileexchange.org/standards-integrity/standards/9614
Fair Trade	YES						YES	YES			www.fairtrade.net
STeP by Oeko-Tex®	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	https://step.oeko-tex.com/en/step/step_home/home.html "Sustainable Textile Production (STeP)" is the new OEKO-TEX® certification system for brands, retail companies and manufacturers from the textile chain who want to communicate their achievements regarding sustainable production to the public in a transparent, credible and clear manner. Certification is possible for production facilities of all processing stages from fibre production, spinning mills, weaving mills, knitting mills to finishing facilities and manufacturers of ready-made textile items.
Oeko-tex® Standard 100	YES									YES	www.oeko-tex.com/en/manufacturers/manufacturers Product certification for human ecology tested for harmful substances. The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is an independent testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end products at all stages of production. Examples for items eligible for certification: Raw and dyed/finished yarns, raw and dyed/finished fabrics and knits, ready-made articles (all types of clothing, domestic and household textiles, bed linen, terry cloth items, textile toys and more).
Made In Green by Oeko-tex®	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	www.oeko-tex.com/en/manufacturers/concept/mig_1/mig_start Combined labeling for Eko-Tex Standard 100 products produced by companies having a Oeko-Tex STeP certificate. Made In Green by OEKO-TEX® is an independent textile label for highlighting consumer products and semi-finished products at all levels of the textile chain that are made from materials tested for harmful substances and that have been manufactured by using environmentally friendly processes and under safe and socially responsible working conditions.
Better Cotton Initiative			YES				YES	YES			www.bettercotton.org Focus on environment and farming communities by Integrated Pest Management, water management, soil management and workers conditions. At spinner level the amount of BCI cotton is as Mass Balance principle.
Caregora		YES						YES	YES	YES	www.angora-rabbits.de/english/index Caregora™ is the first responsible and reliable angora fibre, whose care in its breeding is managed with total respect not just to meet the European animal welfare standards (98/58/EC Directive of the European Community), but it also complies with the even stricter "Animal Welfare Code of Recommendations for the welfare of livestock", recommended and promoted by DEFRA (the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Compliance with this standard has been verified by an independent testing laboratory, the company UL (Underwriters Laboratories), in Northbrook, Illinois. This is an international company in the field of quality of services for the verifying compliance with agreed standards. In addition, these guidelines were supplemented by Naturfasern developed requirements for the shearing. In particular, by clear guidelines in handling of the rabbit, to ensure that this type of material is sheared, only.
Bra Miljöval	YES						YES				www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/in-english

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

List of problematic chemicals in textiles

This section includes an overview of the relevant legislation regarding chemicals in textiles. It also contains links to various negative lists as well as positive lists, which can provide input for suppliers being able to find alternatives to restricted or harmful chemicals.

It is important to test the textiles regularly for the presence of restricted chemicals. As it is not relevant or possible to test for the whole substance content, it would be a good idea to make a test for substances that are in the high-risk group. If you are in doubt of what to test for, you can contact your trade association and they will be able to help you.

The purpose of using negative lists is to avoid that products contain restricted substances and to protect the environment and the customers from these types of substances.

Positive lists can be a help to find alternative substances with less impact on the environment and the customer.

Legislation

The two central regulations on textile products are REACH and the General Product Safety Directive. PFOS (perfluorooctansulfonat) and its derivatives that have been used in impregnating agents as well as certain flame retardants are regulated in the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants. Specific countries may also have few national rules that apply – See “Overview of rules for textiles (in Danish) later in this paragraph.”

The General Product Safety Directive

The General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) demands that consumer articles on the market are safe. A product is safe when there is no unacceptable risk for the consumers, safety and health associated with normal or foreseeable use within the expected lifetime of the products. In addition to the basic requirement to place only safe products on the market, producers must inform consumers of the risks associated with the products they supply. They must take appropriate measures to prevent such risks and be able to trace dangerous products.

Read more about the GPSD [here](#)

REACH

REACH is the overall EU chemical legislation that came into effect on 1 June 2007 (REACH regulation 1907/2006).

The purpose of REACH is to reduce the impact of certain chemical substances on human beings and the environment by ensuring that the individual substances are used in a safe way throughout the entire supply chain.

- Annex XIV deals with a list of substances subject to authorization

- Annex XVII deals with restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain dangerous substances, mixtures and articles
- The Candidate List is a list of prioritized Substances of Very High Concern meeting the criteria in Article 57 and which are candidates for inclusion in Annex XIV
 - The REACH Candidate List is a dynamic list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)
 - Article 33 of REACH applies to all SVHC substances

Find the Regulation [here](#)

The above link guides you to the latest consolidated version (25th of September 2015), however amendments occur.

Candidate List

The Candidate List is a list of Substances of very high concern (SVHCs). When a chemical substance is included in the Candidate List a number of obligations will have to be accepted. These are duties to obtain information and provide information on the substance in the supply chain. Suppliers must provide information to their customers if an article contains a substance listed on the Candidate List in a concentration exceeding 0.1 % weight/weight. The 0.1% threshold for notifying SVHCs in articles applies to “each of the articles incorporated as a component of a complex product” rather than to the entire article. As an example, the button in a garment is an article in itself and therefore the 0.1% threshold is not only valid for the entire garment, but also the button.

Find the Candidate List [here](#)

A guidance document has been elaborated in co-operation between authorities responsible for REACH in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden. The document provides practical advice for suppliers of articles on how to carry out their legal duties to inform about contents of chemical substances listed on the so-called Candidate List. Both professional customers and consumers must be provided with such information.

Read more [here](#)

Regulation on persistent organic pollutants

PFOS (perfluorooctansulfonat) and its derivatives have been used in impregnating agents in textiles. The Regulation on persistent organic pollutants gives a threshold value for PFOS and derivatives on 1 µg/m² or 0.1 % by weight in coating. Certain flame retardants which can be used in textiles are also regulated in the Regulation on persistent organic pollutants with a threshold of 0.001 % by weight. The chemicals in question are regulated because they are persistent and harmful to health and the environment.

Find the Regulation [here](#)

Overview of rules for textiles (in Danish)

The Danish EPA has released a webpage in cooperation with the Danish Safety Technology Authority that provides an overview of the rules and responsibilities with regard to chemicals and product recall for textile products. In addition, physical/mechanical safety of textile products for children is described. The link is in

Danish and there are a few national rules on chemical content of textiles which are described in addition to other regulation of chemicals.

Read more [here](#)

Negative lists

Restricted Substance List (RSL)

Many of the large companies choose to make their own negative list of chemicals, which are unwanted in their products. The list of unwanted chemicals – the so-called Restricted Substance List (RSL) contains chemicals that may be restricted through legislations such as REACH, but will often be based on different legislation requirements throughout the world, i.e. the list will represent all legislative requirements from different regions of the world. However, companies may choose voluntarily to include non-legislated chemicals on their RSL because of identified concerns to consumers, environment or the working environment.

In the text below, some examples of RSLs from different companies are listed. The RSL can be used as inspiration for requirements regarding chemicals to suppliers.

IC GROUP

IC Group's RSL is based on their products. It is through the work with the RSL and having internal processes for risk assessment and due diligence, that IC Group complies with REACH and other national legislations and directives of the countries in which the products are sold. They also have limits for other chemicals, which are harmful for the worker safety, the environment and/or the consumer safety.

Find the RSL [here](#)

BESTSELLER

BESTSELLER has a RSL.

Find the RSL [here](#)

AFIRM

AFIRM is a collaboration between 16 large companies that have come together to make a common RSL. The aim is to have the same values for the content of chemicals and the same testing methods. This RSL list can be helpful for others and will be available to the public.

Find the RSL [here](#)

NIKE RSL

Nike has a RSL based on the most stringent worldwide legislation. In addition, Nike has voluntarily included substances that may not be legislated but have been identified as hazardous to the worker, consumer or the environment.

Find the RSL [here](#)

AAFA – AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION

The AAFA RSL was first released in the summer of 2007 and was the first of its kind. The list covers chemicals and other substances whose presence in a product is restricted through a government regulation or law. The list identifies the most restrictive iteration of that regulation worldwide. Every six months, the publication is reviewed, updated, and the latest version is made available for free to the apparel and footwear industry. The AAFA RSL is offered in a variety of languages. The most current English version is always the prevailing document.

Find the RSL [here](#)

Positive lists

Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Group (ZDHC)

Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (mRSL), i.e. requirements for chemicals in the production instead of RSL, which includes the chemicals present in the textile.

Find the ZDHC mRSL [here](#)

Some chemical manufacturers have now made chemicals that comply with the requirements of the above mRSL. These are:

- Archroma (Clariant)
- Dystar
- BASF
- Huntsman
- Oeko-Tex has drawn up a positive list of flame retardants in textiles

Studies on chemicals in textiles

English surveys from the Danish EPA

The Danish EPA publishes various surveys about chemicals in textiles including health- and environmental risk assessments. The reports are published both in Danish with an English “Summary and conclusion paragraph” and in English. The surveys give information about content of selected chemicals in textiles and potential associated risks. The chemicals tested have been selected because of special concern. You can search by keywords such as “textile”.

Search surveys [here](#)

The Danish survey report “Kortlægning af kemiske stoffer i tekstiler” from 2011 provides an overview of groups of chemicals in textiles in addition to functions and effects.

Find the survey [here](#)

Examples of relevant reports from the Danish EPA:

- [Chemical substances in car safety seats and other textile products for children](#)
- [Survey of products with nanosized pigments](#)
- [Survey of Selected Allergenic, Disperse Dyes in Clothes](#)
- [Survey and health and environmental assessments of biocidal active substances in clothing](#)
- [Survey, health and environmental assessment of flame retardants in textiles](#)
- [Survey and environmental and health assessment of nonylphenol and nonylphenlethoxylates in textiles](#)
- [Assessment of nanosilver in textiles on the Danish market](#)

Report from the Swedish Chemicals Agency:

In 2014 the Swedish Chemical Agency published the report “Chemicals in textiles - risk to human health and the environment” which identifies the harmful chemicals that are present in finished textiles.

Find the report and others [here](#)

Information regarding NPEOs in textiles

Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEOs) are used in the production of textiles.

Read more [here](#)

NPEOs are regulated in REACH Annex XVII.

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Cases

This section contains descriptions of cases where companies and subcontractors in collaboration have reduced the use of harmful chemicals. It includes a number of relevant case studies to provide meaningful inspiration.

[BESTSELLER](#)

For BESTSELLER it is very important that our products are safe for the consumers, for the environment as well as for the people working for our suppliers. Our chemical restrictions are of course very important but they are not enough.

To improve the performance of our suppliers, BESTSELLER arranges training in our chemical restriction for chosen suppliers. Recently we have had special focus on China and 131 suppliers attended our training on chemicals. The test ratings of the suppliers who have attended the seminars have shown improvement meaning that there are less fails in their chemical testing.

Our experience has taught us that a close relationship to our supplies is essential if we want to influence them in order to change their production or substitute unwanted chemicals.

[BESTSELLER](#)

[Gabriel](#)

By focusing on supplier relationship management, Gabriel has created a strong cooperation with our main suppliers, which is a key element in creating a strong and transparent supply chain. In the supply chain, we use each other as sparring partners to evaluate possibilities for improvements continuously to be at the forefront when it comes to the management of chemicals.

Gabriel has a close collaboration with our partners in the supply chain regarding labelling schemes. Labelling ensures compliance with the manufacturing requirements for products to be verified by third parties. Gabriel uses internationally recognized labels. The EU Ecolabel, Oeko-Tex, Cradle to Cradle and the Nordic Ecolabel, the Swan, are selected as these are widely known and recognized. Furthermore, Gabriel is certified under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, which ensures systematic control of parameters in product development and production in outsourced processes.

To be on the forefront regarding environmental and CSR related topics, Gabriel has a long-standing partnership with various knowledge partners, including Dansk Mode & Textil, Network for Sustainable Business Development in Northern Denmark, EPEA Hamburg and Aalborg University as some of the more important partners.

[Gabriel](#)

[Kvadrat](#)

It is a complex and very important task to be knowledgeable about the chemistry used in the manufacturing of our products. This to protect the workers in the factory, the clients and the environment.

We have been working on this task for many years in collaboration with our suppliers. When we develop a new product, it is an incorporated part in the development process that we always consider the use of substances in our products. We are convinced that the close collaboration is the way to go, to avoid the use of harmful chemistry in products. It is a long learning process for both suppliers and Kvadrat.

[Kvadrat](#)

IC Group

IC Group urge suppliers to purchase dye stuff, pigments and textile auxiliaries from reputable suppliers, such as ETAD members (www.ETAD.com), e.g. BASF, CHT-Bezema, Clariant, Dystar, Huntsman and Rudolf. Products purchased with these suppliers and applied appropriately will minimize the risk for chemical failure. The same when working with GOTS, BlueSign and Oeko-tex certified suppliers.

For leather Production, we see that the way in the future to control chemicals will be by using tanneries audited by the Leather Working Group.

IC Group work actively for suppliers to be BSCI audited and IC Groups code of conduct is the same as BSCI's.

Code of conduct

Find more information on our website on "Working with Chemicals in IC Group, our Chemical Processes and Workflows and the latest RSL.

[IC Group](#)

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Tools and organizations

Below you will find different organizations who provide or work with different tools that can help to identify problematic chemicals in your supply chain.

Dansk mode & textil (DM&T)

DM&T is a Danish trade organization that represents more than 300 businesses. DM&T delivers advice to their members on networking, CSR, technology and environmental issues among other things.

Read more [here](#)

Sustainable Apparel Coalition

The centerpiece of the SAC is The Higg Index, a suite of ground-breaking assessment tools that empower brands, retailers, and manufacturers to measure their environmental-, social- and labor impacts at every stage of the life cycle and value chain, and then demonstrate the data in a standardized and simplified way.

The Higg Index is a tool developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC). The Higg Index consists of three modules – the product, the brand and the facility modules.

Read more [here](#)

Made-By

MADE-BY works with fashion and textile brands who want to improve the full life cycle impact of their collections from raw materials to finished products and beyond. This support comes in the form of consultancy services, free, publicly available brand tools and a Scorecard system and MODE Tracker.

Read more [here](#)

NIKE

Making of Making by NIKE MSI (Materials Sustainability Index used in SAC's Higg Index) is available online but can also be downloaded as an app. The tool ranks materials based on their environmental impact in four key areas: chemistry, energy, water and waste. The higher the score the smaller the environmental footprint of a given material. This tool is aimed at designers and creators to encourage sustainable product development in the apparel and footwear industries.

Access the online tool [here](#)

Download the app [here](#)

The Leather Working Group

The Leather Working Group is the online resource for all stakeholders in the leather industry including brands, manufacturers, suppliers, NGOs and end users.

The objective of this multi-stakeholder group is to develop and maintain a protocol that assesses the environmental compliance and performance capabilities of tanners and promotes sustainable and appropriate environmental business practices within the leather industry.

The group seeks to improve the tanning industry by creating alignment on environmental priorities, bringing visibility to best practices and providing suggested guidelines for continual improvement. It is the group's objective to work transparently, involving brands, suppliers, retailers, leading technical experts within the leather industry, NGOs and other stakeholder organizations.

Read more [here](#)

[AAFA – American Apparel & Footwear Association](#)

The AAFA Restricted Substances List (RSL), first released in the summer of 2007, is the first of its kind. The list covers chemicals and other substances whose presence in a product is restricted through a government regulation or law. The list identifies the most restrictive iteration of that regulation worldwide. Every six months, the publication is reviewed, updated, and the latest version is made available free to the apparel and footwear industry.

To fully serve various segments of the apparel and footwear industry's global supply chain, AAFA is pleased to offer the AAFA Restricted Substances List in a variety of languages. Please note that translated RSLs will be released shortly following the release of the English version. The most current English version is always the prevailing document.

Read more [here](#)

[Kemikaliegruppen at Swerea IVF](#)

Kemikaliegruppen at Swerea IVF – a forum to stay updated with current chemistry-related issues in the textile industry.

Kemikaliegruppen exists to disseminate the latest in chemical and environmental issues to member companies. Its aim is to convey the legal requirements and other information on chemicals in a comprehensible way as the information is used in companies' daily work with chemicals.

In the current situation (2015-09-21), over 100 member companies representing the textile industry and the electronics industry have access to the chemical group's database of risk chemicals relevant to their products. Kemikaliegruppen holds regular meetings where experience and knowledge can be spread regarding the current chemistry-related issues in products and production.

Kemikaliegruppen is Swedish-based in Gothenburg, with members from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Read more [here](#)

[Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management \(AFIRM\) Group](#)

Leading brands in the apparel and footwear industry that participate in the Apparel & Footwear International RSL Management Group (AFIRM) are pleased to announce the publication of AFIRM's Restricted Substance List (RSL) guidance for suppliers. In the past, suppliers in the apparel and footwear

industry have requested that AFIRM develop a harmonised restricted substance list (RSL) that could be widely used within the supply chain. AFIRM's RSL Guidance provides both the lowest limit as internally set by any AFIRM member brand and the corresponding test methods for commonly restricted substances in the apparel and footwear production process. For suppliers, some potential uses of the RSL Guidance include providing a tool for vendors to establish chemical management knowledge and processes, building base compliance with AFIRM member chemical restrictions, and providing a common base for testing products, which may be accepted by multiple AFIRM brands. AFIRM member companies determine and communicate to their vendors their testing requirements and acceptance of test reports.

In 2004, a group of companies began working to bring together several product chemistry, safety, and regulatory experts within the apparel and footwear industry. These companies formed the Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management (AFIRM) Working Group. Current membership includes adidas-Group, Carhartt, Collective Brands, Esprit, Gap Inc., Gymboree, H&M, Hugo Boss, Levi Strauss & Co., New Balance, Nike, Pentland, PUMA, s.Oliver, VF Corporation, and Warnaco. The mission of the AFIRM Group is to reduce the use and impact of harmful substances in the apparel and footwear supply chain.

The RSL Guidance document is available to the public for download at the AFIRM website:

AFIRM Group

Suppliers at all levels of the apparel and footwear supply chain are encouraged to use the RSL Guidance as a reference for limits and testing methods of restricted substances found in apparel and footwear production processes. Translated versions of the document in multiple languages will be forthcoming, and AFIRM plans to update annually.

Find the list of all legislated substances [here](#)

Chemistry dictionary

AFIRM Group has made a chemistry encyclopedia. Parts of it may be a little hard to understand without a little knowledge about chemicals, but it is a really good reference book.

Find it [here](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency

The web page of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency provides a range of guidance regarding legislation on chemicals. Read more [here](#)

In order to guide importers, manufacturers or distributors of chemical substances or products, the Danish EPA has established a national REACH helpdesk in order to provide for advice to companies and other stakeholders on the obligations they may have under REACH.

The Danish REACH helpdesk (in Danish)

In addition, the Danish EPA has a specific focus on hazardous substances in consumer products in the Chemicals Initiatives 2014-2017.

Read more [here](#)

ChemSec Textile Guide

ChemSec is a NGO, which focuses on reducing the use of harmful chemicals and works in close dialogue with companies. ChemSec has released a textile guide that is a starting point for small and medium-sized textile companies to manage the chemicals present in their processes and products. The guide provides a systematic guidance for evaluating chemicals and helps to identify and prioritize chemical hot spots, which can be substituted. It uses a database with 6500+ substances from 21 different RSL/regulatory/NGO lists. The guide is simple and you do not need to be an expert to use it. It is free of charge and login is not needed.

Find the guide [here](#)

Business guidance on phthalates

This guidance should help you as a buyer to check whether you buy articles with the phthalates of concern, and it examines the requirements you must meet if you market these articles. In addition, the guidance aims to give advice to voluntary effort by helping you to get started with the process of assessing whether the phthalates of concern can be avoided. The guidance provides instructions on what you can do and how the necessary dialogue with your supplier can be approached. Also, specific examples of the various steps in the process are provided.

Find the guide [here](#)

Key2Green (in Danish)

Key2Green is a Chemistry Guide where you can find chemicals and information about which negative lists they are part of. If you need to learn about specific chemicals in textile production it is a good place to find knowledge.

Find the guide [here](#)

Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) group

The ZDHC group is a group of major apparel and footwear brands and retailers that made a shared commitment to help leading the industry towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals by 2020.

The group puts a few good documents to the public. These include fact sheets on a number of harmful chemicals.

Read more [here](#)

Questions and comments about the guideline can be directed to Louise Fredsbo Karlsson (lofan@mst.dk) from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency

About the guideline

This guideline has been prepared by the Partnership for Chemicals in Textiles. Partnership for Chemicals in Textiles was the framework of a strategic collaboration between Danish companies, trade organizations, authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the textile industry. The purpose of the partnership was to identify issues related to chemicals, environment and health in the textile industry and to contribute with value-added solutions for the Danish stakeholders and the market.

The participants in the Partnership identified the need of a *guide to supply chain management* from where relevant information about aspects related to chemicals in textiles is easily accessible. This guide is the result of the work in the Partnership,

The participants in "Partnership for Chemicals in Textiles" have developed the guideline during the period January to October 2015.

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