



Statement

C&A Europe Reduces Use of Hazardous Chemicals in Its Supply Chain

Since 1841, our family owned company has put serving our customers and local communities first. Today, this means striving to do business sustainably: everyday, everywhere, for everyone.

An important part of this commitment is the management of chemicals in the supply chain to meet our goal of eliminating the discharge of hazardous chemicals throughout all supply chains for all products by 2020. C&A is one of the original members of the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) brand collaboration.

Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals Discharge:

Ahead of 2020, and in line with the precautionary principle:

- All C&A products sold after January 1, 2015 are free from per and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (“PFCs”).
- C&A has used organic cotton for its Bio Cotton collection since 2004 to reduce the use of synthetic agro-chemicals. Since 2010 we have ranked first or second in sourcing organic cotton by volume in the Textile Exchange’s Organic Cotton Market Report. In 2012 C&A was ranked the top company in the growth of our organic cotton sourcing and from 2012 to 2013 our use of Bio Cotton increased from 85 million units to 110 million units.
- C&A bans the use of PVC in all products.
- C&A actively seeks to ban the intentional use by suppliers of fourteen classes of chemicals including APEOs, o-phthalates, PFCs (and all 11 initial priority chemical groups identified via our 2011 Detox commitment) by means of a restricted substances list.

In order to ensure the safety and chemical performance of our products for the consumer and the environment C&A:

- Requires that its suppliers comply with the C&A Restricted Substance List (RSL) Policy.
- Conducts due diligence chemical residue testing on over 400,000 samples annually.
- Worked with the ZDHC brand collaboration to define and develop a Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL) for the apparel and footwear industry. The MRSL addresses hazardous substances potentially used and discharged into the environment during manufacturing and related processes, not just those substances that could be present in finished products.
- Co-hosted and/or participated in nine textile industry events in south-Asia for chemical suppliers and wet processing mills to raise awareness about the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL) during 2013-2014 and since 2012 has given nearly 30 presentations at key global chemicals management and textile conferences.
- Assesses chemicals use at wet processing facilities. To assess whether APEOs had been eliminated from the manufacture process for C&A products at two production units in India in 2013, the facilities were audited for chemicals use and more than 40 samples were analyzed. APEOs were found to be eliminated at the two mills.
- Educates local chemical suppliers on the importance of developing formulations that do not intentionally contain any of the original ZDHC 11 priority chemical groups and meet the ZDHC MRSL criteria.



- Works with the Better Mill Initiative in China and Partnership for Clean Textiles (PaCT) in Bangladesh to help textiles wet processing plants to improve their environmental footprints, including chemical discharge.

Transparency:

Regarding transparency;

- Forty-two C&A suppliers are among the over 250 suppliers who have already reported their hazardous chemical testing results via the public IPE Detox platform.
- C&A ranks 3rd among 50 apparel brands in the Corporate Information Transparency Index (CITI) (July 2014) developed by the China-based Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE) and the U.S.-based Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) The CITI Report says that C&A "...demonstrated outstanding effort in extending green supply chain practices. They actively tracked chemical suppliers and actively pushed them to develop corrective actions for their pollution problems."
- Aligned with our goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals we are progressing providing chemical testing across our direct supply-chain. We carried out a project with five mills in China to collect wastewater data for disclosure and have used the results to develop a holistic strategy based on controlling the chemical inputs with wastewater sampling to help support the phase out of banned chemicals.

C&A is committed to providing customers with clothing embodying the highest standards for the environment and human safety and going forward will:

- Focus on controlling the chemical inputs by developing a sustainable chemicals strategy for the 2015 – 2020 that will build capacity within our supply chain partners to use preferred, safer chemistries and improved processes in order to reduce, and where possible, eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals.
- Continue working with our suppliers wet processing mills to help them to connect with chemical suppliers to find banned hazardous chemicals in their formulations and find acceptable alternatives where needed.
- Continue our collaborative efforts with our supply chain in China and with the IPE to encourage the public disclosure of waste-water testing results based on local legally-required wastewater parameters, monitor mill discharge non-compliance and support in the development of corrective action plans where necessary.

More information on C&A's work in the area of chemicals management can be found in the most recent Corporate Responsibility (CR) report.