



Statement

May 2016

C&A Progress towards Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) by 2020

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

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

- All C&A products sold after 1 January, 2015 are banned from using Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs).
- C&A actively seeks to ban the intentional use of hazardous chemicals (beyond the 11 initial priority chemicals) through our C&A Chemical Policy (RSL & MRSL) taking the intrinsic hazards approach into account.
- C&A bans the use of PVC in all products.
- Extended our use of more sustainable cotton to over 40% of all cotton products with the goal to achieve 100% by 2020, reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

In order to progress towards our commitment of ZDHC by 2020, C&A have;

- Upgraded the 'C&A Chemical Policy (RSL & MRSL)' into one integrated standard for our supply chain, reducing complexity and increasing implementation.
- Started testing the wastewater of 47 of our largest fabric mills to screen for hazardous chemicals listed on the MRSL.
- Implemented a new Sustainable Chemicals Management audit which assesses the on-site chemical management performance of our supply chain whilst driving corrective actions.
- Supported the development of the convergence of the ZDHC Chemical Management Audit and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) Higg 3.0 Index in support of one industry assessment tool for environmental and chemical management.
- Worked with the ZDHC Foundation to upgrade its MRSL to include leather, along with the development of interim MRSL conformance guidance.
- Conducted chemical management training to 52 of C&A's largest nominated fabric mills.
- Continue to raise the awareness of hazardous chemicals by engaging with the Chinese National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). From this, over 400 people from a wide range of organizations across China have committed to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals.

Transparency

C&A believe our customers have the right to know where their clothing is being made and what goes into their production. In support of the Right to Know principle, C&A have;

- 76 wet processing facilities disclosing their wastewater test results via the Institute of Environmental Affairs (IPE) [DETOX Disclosure Platform](#), which includes 74% of nominated fabric for C&A Europe.
- Disclosed 850 of our suppliers' factories names and addresses across 36 production countries. The list represents first-tier cut and sew factories and vertically integrated mills. This is an initial step and by April 2017 will include suppliers like fabric mills, laundries and printers.

- Set out an ambitious plan to increase the number of wet processing facilities disclosing on IPE with incremental targets for 2016 and 2017. By 2018, our goal is to have 80% of global wet processes reported.
- Released a Wastewater Discharge Trend Report detailing the wastewater results from our Sustainable Chemicals Management program during 2015, allowing progress to our 2020 goal to be publicly monitored.
- Released an Audit Findings Report detailing the results found from our in-depth review of on-site chemical management performance across 52 of our largest nominated fabric mills.

Developing our strategy for 2016/17

C&A strive to continue its progress in eliminating hazardous chemicals throughout 2016/17 by;

- Expanding our wastewater testing program to 100 wet processing facilities, including Brazil and Mexico.
- Increasing the number of Sustainable Chemicals Management audits conducted across our supply chain to 100, including Brazil and Mexico.
- Focus on the controlling of chemical inputs by piloting a screening methodology tackling the problem at source.
- Continue to build the capacity and knowledge of our supply chain by conducting trainings and offering on-site technical support to conduct a root causes analysis of any detected hazardous chemicals.
- Continue, in partnership with the ZDHC, to drive research and development into new safer alternatives, build upon the existing MRSL to move beyond the 11 priority chemical groups, implement a wastewater standard and an industry aligned assessment tool for environmental and chemical management.

For more information on C&A's work in the area of chemicals management, please visit our [Global Sustainability Report](#).