

G-Star RAW committed to eliminate hazardous chemicals

G-Star sees the urgent need to eliminate the industrial release of hazardous chemicals into the environment. We fully acknowledge and understand the seriousness of the problem of hazardous chemicals and are committed to eliminate the release of hazardous chemicals⁽¹⁾ into the environment from our product and production processes associated with the making and using of G-Star products by 2020.

To reach this ambition we now joined the Joint Roadmap towards Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals of adidas Group, C&A, H&M, Li Ning, NIKE, Inc. and Puma. The roadmap is an ambitious plan, one that sets a new standard of environmental performance for the global apparel and footwear industry.

Working towards achieving this ambition, our actions need to be guided by transparency, fact-based decision-making and a preventative, precautionary ⁽²⁾ and integrated approach to chemicals management. It also demands collective action of the industry, as well as engagement of regulators and other stakeholders. Therefore we will continue to collaborate with suppliers through the chain, other brands and chemical suppliers to reach this ambition.

Further, we recognise that to achieve zero discharge ⁽³⁾, mechanisms for disclosure and transparency about the hazardous chemicals used in our global supply chains are important and necessary, in line with the 'right to know principle'⁽⁴⁾. Disclosure, in line with right to know principle, will be among the most challenging of issues as we continue towards the goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals by 2020. Although we see potential value in disclosure, we also believe that the strategy must be appropriate in order to achieve the desired impact.

The roadmap includes specific commitments and timelines to realize this shared goal. These commitments include:

- Jointly communicating the mission of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals to all suppliers beginning immediate
- Conducting pilot projects at major, vertically integrated and materials suppliers between 2011 and 2013 to better understand scope of use and discharge of hazardous chemicals
- Verifying that nine classes of hazardous or persistent chemicals are not currently used
- Initiating an inventory of all chemicals used in apparel manufacturing by the end of 2012
- Disclosing the results of all pilots and studies undertaken as part of this commitment
- Reporting regularly and publicly on our progress against this commitment (quarterly in 2012, annually from 2013 to 2020)

The joint roadmap is a living document: it will continue to be refined as we gain additional intelligence and insights through our initial pilots and research, as well as our collaboration with other brands and stakeholders. We commit to reviewing and updating the roadmap at least annually and making the results public.

- (1) Zero discharge: Means elimination of all releases, via all pathways of release, i.e. discharges, emissions and losses, from our supply chain and our products.
- (2) Hazardous chemicals' means all those that show intrinsically hazardous properties (persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT); very persistent and very bio-accumulative (vPvB); carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction (CMR); endocrine disruptors (ED); or equivalent concern), not just those that have been regulated or restricted in other regions.
- (3) Precautionary approach: It means that when scientific evidence suggests a substance may harm the environment or human health, but the type or magnitude of harm is not yet known, a preventative approach towards potentially serious or irreversible damage should be taken, recognising the fact that such proof of harm may not be possible. The process of applying the precautionary approach must involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including, where necessary, the development of harmless alternatives where they do not already exist.
- (4) Right to know principle' Is defined as practices that allow members of the public access to environmental information – in this case specifically about the uses and discharges of chemicals based on reported quantities of releases of hazardous chemicals to the environment, facility-by-facility, year-by-year.