Levi Strauss & Co.’s Restricted Substance List

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July 10, 2008 GC3
Company Facts

- Founded 1853
- Brands: Levi’s®, Dockers®, Signature by Levi Strauss & Co.™
- $4.4 billion
- 11,500 Employees
- Sell in over 110 countries
  - 60,000+ retail locations
  - 1500 brand-dedicated stores
- Supply Chain:
  - Over 750 suppliers
  - 55 countries
  - 315,000 workers
RSL Background

- Pre-2000: chemical approval process
- 2001: European RSL
  - Country regulatory restrictions
- 2002: Global RSL
  - Country regulatory restrictions
  - H&S/Toxicology data
  - Peer reviewed risk assessment process
Restrictions & Scope

- **List of Chemical Substances:**
  - Prohibited from use
  - Limited concentration on end product
  - Phase-out (2008 version)

- **Scope:**
  - All direct suppliers, licensees, agents
  - All branded products, sundries, accessories, packaging
RSL Version 2008

- Metal restrictions enhanced
- Phthalates: prohibited for children’s products
- Electrical parts & electronics
- REACH requirements
- Update of China requirements on formaldehyde & azo dyes
- Chemical Phase-Out List
Chemical Phase-out List

- Supports Company’s environmental vision
- Peer-reviewed ecotox risk assessment process
- Resulting Phase-Out List:
  - APEOs
  - Bisphenol-A
  - D4 Siloxane
  - PVC
  - Phthalates (prohibited for children’s products)
- LS&CO. works with Suppliers to find alternatives
- Goal to prohibit the chemicals’ use in near future
RSL Implementation

- **LS&CO.:**
  - Receive *Compliance Agreements* from Suppliers
  - Supplier Training
  - Assist Suppliers with chemical alternatives and RSL Compliance
  - Product reviews at development stage
  - Lab testing as needed

- **Suppliers:**
  - Sign & return *Compliance Agreements*
  - Request training and more information from LS&CO.
  - Educate internal staff & communicate to *their* suppliers
  - Receive *Compliance Agreements* and *Chemical Information Logs* from their suppliers & submit to LS&CO.
  - Replace unknown or noncompliant chemicals
  - Validate compliance; perform lab testing as needed
Measuring Progress

- Receipt of Compliance Agreements and chemical information
- Engagement with Suppliers (requests for training, facility visits)
- Engagement with Chemical Suppliers (RSL discussions and development of alternatives)
- Compliance confirmed via analytical lab testing
- Reduced product recalls
Impact of RSL

- Worker & consumer safety
- Ecosystem health
- Supplier capacity building to understand chemical concerns and evaluate processes for restricted substances
- Chemical suppliers develop alternatives
- Signals clear message to suppliers as others in industry communicate RSL requirements
Challenges / Opportunities

- Licensees
- Unclear legal requirements
- Test Methods
- Subcontracting
- Lack of transparency

- Improving knowledge
- Growing collaboration
Thank You!

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http://www.levistrauss.com/citizenship/