

# LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

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## *Progress on Commitment to Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals*

Levi Strauss & Co. is committed to responsible chemicals management and driving sustainable progress within the apparel industry. We were one of the first companies to develop a [Restricted Substances List \(RSL\)](#), which establishes the chemicals we restrict in our manufacturing process. And we were the first company to set EPA-level standards for the wastewater leaving our supplier factories, which we call our [Global Effluent Requirements](#).

In 2012, Levi Strauss & Co. advanced its commitment to chemical stewardship by joining the [Joint Roadmap Toward Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals](#) (ZDHC Roadmap), an apparel industry collaboration to drive systemic change with a goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals by 2020. Such collaboration mirrors our belief that this collaborative approach to chemicals management is the most effective way to achieve the scope and scale necessary to meet the goal of zero discharge in the apparel industry. Read our commitment to zero discharge [here](#).

Also in 2012, LS&Co. signed a [Detox Solution Commitment](#) with Greenpeace International further outlining our commitment and actions toward zero discharge of hazardous chemicals. The following shares progress made since making these commitments.

### **Restricted Substances Stewardship Program**

LS&Co. established one of the first apparel and footwear industry Restricted Substances Lists (RSL) more than a decade ago. The RSL aims to protect consumers from exposure to priority substances on product. In 2014 we launched the [Restricted Substances Stewardship Program](#) (RSSP), which takes this commitment a step further creating the foundation to eliminate priority substances from suppliers' production processes (including production for other brands) by supporting our product-focused RSL with a Manufacturing RSL (MRS�). In 2015, we will be further aligning the RSSP with the ZDHC MRS� and other tools and trainings development within the ZDHC Roadmap.

The RSSP identifies elements of a chemical management plan to restrict priority substance use and discharge, and to help ensure a safe and healthful workplace. The RSSP has at its heart a list of more than eleven categories of priority substances—notably including alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs), perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) and phthalates—identified by the ZDHC Roadmap and Greenpeace International.

With the RSSP, LS&Co. requires supplier factories to accord high priority to responsible chemical management and to work closely with chemical suppliers and analytical laboratories so that sound management migrates up the supply chain and that LS&Co. is able to validate the results of implementation. Transparency is an important tool in keeping all stakeholders accountable.

Through our RSL and RSSP, we have taken specific action to address the elimination of APEOs, PFCs and phthalates in our products and supply chain.

### ***Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs)***

Levi Strauss & Co. began focusing on phasing out APEOs in 2008 — long before our most recent commitment to extending a usage ban throughout our supply chain. Our 2008 RSL listed APEOs as a

substance identified for phase out, requiring manufacturing suppliers to assess the scope of their usage within their own supply chains.

The elimination of APEOs across our supply chain is a key success metric for Levi Strauss & Co.'s individual action plan toward zero discharge of hazardous chemicals. Levi Strauss & Co. is sourcing from about 630 facilities in 43 countries globally, so this is a significant commitment and a challenge to ensure compliance and understanding by suppliers when the regulatory environment in all these countries does not align with Levi Strauss & Co.'s prohibition on APEO use.

We understand that there are multiple supply-chain pathways for potential APEO contamination (including process, maintenance, on-site laboratory, sanitary, pest control and chemical waste water treatment plan chemicals) and we are committed to enhancing both training and auditing of our supply chain to ensure our suppliers have the latest information on APEOs, highlighting where there is a risk that APEOs may enter into the undocumented contamination of chemical supplier formulations. Through [this report](#), we are sharing the baseline findings from Levi Strauss & Co.'s phase out of APEOs in our supply chain.

### ***Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs)***

By January 2016, Levi Strauss & Co. has committed to stop producing products with perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) – chemicals that have unique properties to make materials waterproof, and stain resistant. This challenge is significant considering there are currently no equally effective alternatives to PFCs. We have already eliminated the use of long-chain PFCs (C7 and C8) in our products.

### ***Phthalates***

With growing scientific understanding of the human and environmental impact of phthalates, LS&Co. banned phthalates in our products globally through our RSL in 2010. Our attention to phthalates and commitment to elimination in our products globally preceded our joining the ZDHC Roadmap and Greenpeace Detox Solutions Commitment, but through the collaboration in ZDHC Roadmap we have a better opportunity to expand and ensure implementation.

## **Research and Disclosure**

As we advance our commitment to zero discharge of hazardous chemicals, LS&Co. performed a benchmark study of chemical use and discharge of 11 priority groups of chemicals from a total of 41 supplier facilities located in key production markets (i.e., Mexico, China, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Vietnam, Egypt, Nicaragua and Lesotho).

The results will help to establish a baseline understanding of chemical use and discharge to focus capacity building, process change, and policy change with suppliers toward the goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals in the apparel industry. It also helps to understand how to organize and improve supplier transparency.

You can find the 25 supplier facility reports on chemical use and discharge from December 2013 [here](#). The previous 16 reports can be found [here](#). Several of these suppliers have also posted their data on the [IPE Detox Platform](#).

LS&Co. is following up with each of the 41 supplier facilities to discuss the findings of this report and outline actions to be taken by the facility to meet the goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.