Hennes & Mauritz
Obstacles In Ensuring Information on Chemicals In Consumer Products

The Flow of Materials is Also a Flow of Chemicals

Sweden, IGES, UNEP

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Fotograf: Dan Martensen
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Facts About H&M

- International Fashion House
- Established in Sweden in 1947
- Around 2000 stores in 37 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America
- Around 76,000 employees
- The turnover in 2009 was SEK 118 billions
- Around 700 suppliers
- Plans to open 240 stores during 2010
- Open stores in South Korea and Israel in 2010
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

- Dyes
- Auxiliaries
- Print paste
- Spinning
- Knitting
- Weaving
- Washing
- Fiber
- Oil
- Size
- Synthetic fibre
- Natural fibre
- Pigment
- Plastic
- Metal
- Button
- Zipper
- Sequin
- Accessories
- Garment
- Detergents
- Bleach
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

- Protect customers
- Protect environment
- Protect workers
- Legislation
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

Protect Customer
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

Protect Environment
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

Protect Workers

Poisoned workers merely the tip of an iceberg

 Owners greedy, and authorities turn blind eye

Benzene and its toxic effects

H&M
Why Bother About Chemicals in Retail?

Legislation

- EU
  - **REACH** (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals)

- USA
  - California Proposition 65
  - CPSIA (Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act)

- Japan
  - **Law 112** (Law for the control of household products containing harmful substances)

- China
  - **GB 18401-2003** (National general safety technical code for textile products)

- Etc.
What Do We Do Today?

- H&M Chemical Restrictions
- List of chemicals
  - legislations
  - chemicals of concern
- Introduced in 1995
- Dye stuffs, pesticides, heavy metals, formaldehyde, APEO, PVC, phthalates etc
## H&M Chemical Restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chromium VI (Cr^{6+})</td>
<td>Not detected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azo Dyes &amp; Pigments*</td>
<td>20 ppm, per listed amine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disperse Dyes*</td>
<td>1 mg/l extract, per listed disperse dye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Dyes*</td>
<td>Not detected, per listed other dye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flame Retardants*¹</td>
<td>Not detected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formaldehyde</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products for children aged 0-3 years, incl. bed linen (e.g. 50-98 cl)</td>
<td>(A-A₀) &lt; 0.05²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products for children above 3 years (e.g. 104-170 cl) and products for adults with direct skin contact, incl. bed linen</td>
<td>75 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products for adults without direct skin contact (e.g. outer wear, curtains)</td>
<td>300 ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Do We Do Today?

Chemicals of Concern

- Cancer
- Toxic for reproduction
- Mutagenic
- Environment
Information Needs

- Compliance
  - no banned substances

- REACH
  - article 7.2
  - article 33

- Toxicity
  - environment
  - health
Information Sources

- From chemical manufacturers
  - Material Safety Data Sheet
  - Declarations of products’ compliance with customers’ requirements
  - Labelled containers

- Requires
  - Knowledge about chemical content
  - Willingness to share knowledge
  - Stringent and enforced regulations
Information Obstacles

▪ Today’s situation
  ▪ Different countries have different regulations
  ▪ Regulations are not enforced
  ▪ Developing countries tend to have less stringent regulations or lack of enforcement of regulations

▪ Results in
  ▪ Manufacturers in developing countries need to buy and import chemicals from countries with more stringent regulations and enforcement practices
  ▪ Competitive disadvantage for developing countries
Information Obstacles
Information Obstacles

store

garment

cotton

spinner

wool
Recycled Material

- Pre-consumer
  - suppliers’ wastage
  - stopped/cancelled products

- Post-consumer
  - PET bottles (polyester)
  - fish nets (polyamide/nylon)
  - liquid food containers (polyethylene)
  - used garments
Thank you!

Fotograf: Dan Martensen