
The Chemicals in Products project:
Textiles sector case study – findings to date

**Sector-expert Consultation for the Chemicals in
Products Project
December 9-10, 2010
Geneva, Switzerland**

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Presentation



Objectives
Methodology
Existing systems
Lessons learned
Needs and gaps
Potential opportunities

Textile Case Study objectives



Contribute to the CiP project objectives:

- *CiP*: “Collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices;”
Case study: Review positive list and negative list initiatives
 - *CiP / case study*: “Assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;”
 - *CiP*: “Develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the Strategic Approach with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms;”
Case study: Identifies areas with high potential for effective collaboration on CiP exchange, suggests avenues to investigate.
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Case study methodology



Builds upon earlier CiP project work

- CiP Needs Survey and report
- Project global report – Kogg / Thidell

Literature and web research

Targeted interviews (22 to date)

- Footwear and clothing brand names, Ecolabel institutes, manufacturers, upstream suppliers, governments, NGOs
 - Developed and developing countries
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Existing system types



- **Negative list systems - “information on chemicals that are not in the products”**
 - Current systems provide a significant step in building technical and communication infrastructures

 - **CiP information systems – “some or all information on the chemical composition of a product”**
 - Systems can / are providing stakeholders with additional data → a more informed decision is possible
 - Contributes to the SAICM goal of information and knowledge (OPS Paragraph 15(b))
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Existing CiP information exchange



- **Negative list systems**
 - Restricted Substance Lists (RSLs)
 - most widespread effort found in the sector
 - many major brands require these
 - similar but company specific
 - respond (at a minimum) to legal requirements in target markets
 - current systems have provided a significant step in building technical and communication infrastructures
 - Ecolabels
 - Study concentrates on Type 1 or 3 ecolabels (third-party verification)

 - **CiP information systems**
 - Some are expansions upon above programs
 - Most complete systems are found within the manufacturing chain
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Lessons from existing systems



■ Restricted substance lists

- Motivated by numerous factors, including legislative requirements, brand name image and protection, corporate attitude
 - Complexity of materials flows in manufacturing
 - complexity in managing chemicals information flow
 - requires a substantive and rigorous methodology (clear responsibilities for suppliers, independent testing of product components)
 - brand name companies heavily involved in capacity building and program tracking / oversight
 - Extensive communications networks have been built around RSLs
 - Companies have much knowledge about what is not in their products
 - Marketing benefits from RSL efforts are almost non-existent
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Lessons from existing systems (cont.)



■ Ecolabels

- Many labels in use already (70+ deal with textiles)
 - Frequently national or regionally oriented
 - Many are multi-sectoral and / or cover multiple aspects of production (e.g. environmental impact, working conditions, sustainability, social responsibility)
 - Chemical safety is a common theme
 - Verification of data / claims varies widely
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Lessons from existing systems (cont.)



■ Positive list efforts

- Some have grown out of RSL initiatives
- Similar structure and function to negative list efforts
- Confidentiality of data is a key concern
Solutions found:
 - restrict data access within receiving company (exchange selected CiP information, retain confidentiality)
 - work with suppliers to identify data that could be released with the product
- Little or no attempts at marketing benefits from chemicals data directly
- Information sometimes included in a more holistic approach (e.g. Environmental Product Declaration, life-cycle analysis and product rating, proprietary label)

Needs and uses of information



| Stakeholder | Negative list information | CiP information |
|---|---|--|
| Manufacturers Brand names / distributors | Legal compliance Brand protection | Informed decisions Improved product safety Extended producer responsibility Assess environmental performance Better avoidance of risks Respond to inquiries |
| Governments | Monitor compliance | Response measures (to incidents and inquiries) Policy development Proactive measures |
| Public interest NGOs Academia | Promote avoidance of hazardous substances | Facilitate to identify science-based emerging chemicals issues Facilitate promotion of best practices |
| Consumers | Avoid health and environmental risks | Proper use and care |
| Recyclers / End of life handlers | Legal compliance (for reuse) | To identify proper precautions, avenues or techniques for handling or disposal |

Bridging gaps



Possibilities to build on existing efforts to expand information exchange?:

- RSL initiatives
 - Promoting the further expansion of RSL efforts would bring a large measure of awareness to the manufacturing chain actors involved
 - Use existing capacity and communication infrastructures to begin communicating positive list types of data
 - Sharing RSL program test results could make available valuable chemicals information to governments, NGOs (issues: cost, CBI, format)
 - Ecolabels
 - Similar opportunities as above
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Bridging gaps (cont.)



Possibilities to build on existing efforts to expand information exchange?:

- Positive list initiatives
 - Take lessons learned from existing systems (e.g. on CBI)
 - Promotion of a standard (e.g. the Environmental Product Declaration Standard, ISO 14025)
 - As with the RSLs, look to expand recipients of test data generated under the positive list programs
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Starting a new CiP exchange effort

- **Definition of the drivers**
 - Legal
 - Responding to specific demands
 - Corporate policy
 - Potential market advantage
 - **Parameters**
 - Chemicals reported
 - Recipients and format
 - Exchange platform, access and security, CBI, etc.
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