

# FABRIC Asia

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT SERIES

## Knowledge Product

– Chemical Management–

Image: depositphotos.com

## Who is this for?

The main target group are producers of textile, garment and shoes in Asia. Further target groups include local and international brands and retailers, chemical suppliers as well as interested representatives from authorities, academics, sectoral initiatives and consultancies in the chemical and textile sectors.

## In brief

This brochure will provide you with comprehensive information on latest tools and practical solutions around chemical management in textile, garment and shoe production.

## Where to start?

If you are considering implementing a chemical management system or improving your current chemical management, we can offer you a variety of comprehensive information on topics, methods, and tools, which can support your efforts towards sustainable chemical management.

## Why is it important?

Chemical management is an international as well as domestic issue with global chemical conventions and national regulations with specific trends and emerging challenges. A growing number of international brands, retailers, and governments have been insisting on stricter requirements within the textile and leather value chains. Practical knowledge of Chemical Management systems, tools, and methods as well as the understanding of the current global challenges, international and domestic regulations, and requirements of global brands can provide you advantages for your own market position, worker safety, and branding.

## Benefits

Applying the tools listed in this brochure can help you implement or improve your own chemical management system at factory level. The primary benefits you can derive from our conference and informational materials are:

- An **introduction on the main chemical management tools** for your production which can support your effort to manage chemicals within your factory processes;
- A **better understanding** of the **latest legislations and industrial standards** on environmental and chemical management in China;
- A summary of the **expectations and requirements** from international initiatives and brands;
- An in-depth view on **good practice examples from local and regional suppliers** and hands-on experiences to transform onto your framework, and;

Since you need to decide, which tool fits best to your own production, we will give you in the following a brief but comprehensive overview of selected tools and toolkits, which are proven and implemented in the context of textile and leather production sector.

**Tool:**

**GIZ full training on Sustainable Chemical Management**

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**Areas of application:**

Producers and suppliers in the textile, garment, leather, and shoe industries

**Brief description:**

The training targets on improving chemical management at factory levels to meet increasing demands concerning their sustainability. The learning elements covers the industry needs of the textile and garment sector, as well is applicable for leather industries and shoe production facilities. The training empowers factories to control the input, storage and handling of chemicals and to advance towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals in production processes. It instructs participants on how to set up chemical management systems, implement chemical risk controls, or improve already existing management practices. To achieve these, the toolkit provides guidelines for producers to meet international requirements for chemical use, offers best practice examples to showcase implementation areas, and introduces training methods. For producers, it is a practical step-by-step explanation to implement and manage their own chemical management systems.



**Tool benefits:**

- Provides comprehensive materials and information such as guidelines, training materials, presentations, and others;
- Adaptable to multiple scenarios of training sessions with different duration of training courses and different and target groups (workers, students, managers);
- Module based full-training package in up to 9 languages: English, Chinese (Mandarin), Vietnamese, Bengali, Urdu, French, Arabic, Turkey, Indonesian (Bahasa);
- Full technical infrastructure for trainers to conduct tailor-made blended trainings by using state-of-the-art virtual learning environment based on moodle.

**Target group:**

Companies, SME, industrial area management and operator, local and international consultants, and advisors

**Training elements:**

- E-learning training modules for self-learning and/or blended-learning training courses;
- Quizzes, assignments, worksheets and provides exercises to train and practice the learning content;
- Guidelines for trainers using the training materials to roll-out group-training or tailor-made consultancy services;
- Trainer pool list.

**Contact Person:**

Gundolf Klaehn ([gundolf.klaehn@giz.de](mailto:gundolf.klaehn@giz.de))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances Lists (MRSL)**

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**Areas of application:**

Chemical producers and suppliers in the textile, apparel, and leather sector

**Brief description:**

The MRSL contains comprehensive information on chemical substances subject to a restriction or a usage ban. The list indicates and informs about chemical substances which are banned from intentional use in facilities processing. Chemical formulations covered by restrictions in the ZDHC MRSL include, but are not limited to, cleaners, adhesives, paints, inks, detergents, dyes, colourants, auxiliaries, coatings and finishing agents used during raw material production, wet processing, process machinery maintenance, wastewater treatment, sanitation, and pest control. Besides offering information on banned chemicals, it also provides information on substances which are restricted to concentration limits in chemical formulations.



**Tool benefits:**

- A single, harmonised list of chemicals substances banned from international use;
- Goes beyond the traditional approaches to chemical restrictions, which only apply to finished products (Product Restricted Substances List - PRSL);
- Widely accepted by various stakeholders such as leading brands, chemical producers, or manufacturers;
- International recognised by leading standard holders for the textile and leather industries (e.g. Oeko Tex®, bluesign®);
- Available in English and Chinese.

**Target group:**

Supply chains of the textile, apparel, and footwear (including leather and rubber) industries, chemical producers, and brands.

**Contact Person:**

Lydia Lin ([L.lin@zdhc.org](mailto:L.lin@zdhc.org))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**The BHive APP**

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**Areas of application:**

Producers and suppliers in the garment and leather sector

**Brief description:**

The BHive platform supports chemical management across global supply chains in response to rising concerns over toxic chemicals in the fashion industry. The BHive app uses OCR (photo scanning) technology to allow manufacturing facilities to take smartphone photos of chemical product labels, and identify which products meet the sustainability requirements. Scanned chemicals are cross-referenced with the BHive's database and the system automatically generates a full and up-to-date chemical inventory.



**Tool benefits:**

- In line with sustainability requirements of the common industry standards (such as ZDHC, GOTS, etc.) or specified by brand;
- BHive automatically provides chemical data updates by the chemical manufacturers and standard holders;
- International recognised by the leading international chemical companies as well as Industry partners including GOTS and OKEO-TEX;
- Large BHive database (90,000+ chemical products).

**Target group:**

Supply chains of the textile, apparel, and footwear (including leather and rubber) industries, chemical producers, brands, and retailers.

**Contact Person:**

Sophie (English英文: [sophie@goblu.net](mailto:sophie@goblu.net))

Ann (Chinese中文: [goblu@foxmail.com](mailto:goblu@foxmail.com))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**DPP Zalando Toolkit**

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**Areas of application:**

Brands & retailers who are interested in improvement off the chemical management system in their supply chain; Producers and suppliers in the leather and footwear production sector

**Brief description:**

The toolkit provides comprehensive support for addressing industry-wide challenges in the (polyurethane) shoe production regarding chemical management. The toolkit enables producers to implement, in full or in part, the processes developed in the develoPPP.de project by Zalando and GIZ. It includes practical guidance on how to systematically assess and improve the chemical management system in manufacturing supply chain. The whole system consists of a) onsite chemical mapping, b) chemical testing, c) training of managers and workers by Training of Trainer method (ToT) and d) set up, implement and monitor action plans with improvement measures on chemical management. The toolkit will be made available in English and Chinese.



**Tool benefits:**

- Support factories to assess and improve their chemical management system and thereby reduce the harmful impact of chemicals on workers and environment. It will help improving chemical handling processes as well as ensuring better & safer working conditions ;
- Evidence-based approach to prioritize and focus resources on hotspots with higher chemical risk ;
- The requirements are aligned with the common industry tools (e.g. Higg FEM) therefore could enhance their performance in those tools.

**Target group:**

Owner & Management of footwear manufacturers, brands, and retailers

**Contact Person:**

Alexandra Behns ([Alexandra.Behns@giz.de](mailto:Alexandra.Behns@giz.de))

Tingting Chen ([Tingting.Chen@giz.de](mailto:Tingting.Chen@giz.de))

**More information:**



(upcoming from June 30, 2021)

**Tool:**

**Open Apparel Registry: Add and Claim Your Facility(ies)**

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**Areas of application:**

Producers and retailers in the global garment sector

**Brief description:**

The Open Apparel Registry (OAR) is a neutral, open-source tool mapping garment facilities worldwide and assigning a unique ID number to each. It is a go-to source for identifying apparel facilities and their affiliations by collating disparate supplier lists from industry stakeholders into one central, open-source map and database. The collated database of facility names, addresses and affiliated parties is powered by an advanced name and address-matching algorithm and is available for use by any organisation, for free. The OAR compiles data from multiple sources including large datasets from multistakeholder initiatives (MSIs), brand and retailer supplier lists, facilities and factory groups, service providers, government databases and more.



**As a facility owner / representative, you have the ability to add your facility / facility list to the Open Apparel Registry, and then claim your facility(ies).** Once you go through a short verification process to claim your facility, you will be able to add additional information about your facility, like production details and certifications, order minimums, average lead times, parent company and more.

**Tool benefits:**

- It is free to contribute and claim your facilities on the OAR;
- Brands are likely already listing your facility(ies) in the OAR. Ensure that the information shared is correct;
- Up-to-date profiles lead to new business relationships and add credibility through visible affiliations with other customers and organisations;
- Claim a unique, recognized facility ID, eliminating confusion with customers.

**Target group:**

Factory / Facility Owners & Management

**Contact Person:**

Hannah Lennett ([info@openapparel.org](mailto:info@openapparel.org))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**amfori BEPI Supply Chain Chemical Management Module (SCCM)**

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**Areas of application:**

Producers and supply chain connected of chemical management

**Brief description:**

This tool/module provides to all registered members of the amfori BEPI community a platform as well as tools to improve their communication with their producers, to strengthen their chemical management and to respond to detox concerns appropriately and adequately.



The module offers a selection of factory and industry standards as well offers the possibility to collaborate with other globally recognized partners to implement them into factory processes. By introducing specific fits of monitoring processes and worker trainings, the tool

enables a factory transition to improved sustainable chemical management. The chemical management of producers is analysed and improved by the means of Chemical Management Audits and Wastewater/Sludge Sampling and Testing. Additionally, BEPI community members can access selected trainings sessions and materials from global partners.

**Tool benefits:**

- Full-scale service, ensuring intermediaries and producers understand and comply with requirements on chemicals;
- Addresses short-term or immediate response issues, such as Detox implementation and substance ban(s);
- Addresses long-term issues, such as zero discharge of hazardous chemicals, systemic change, and mature supply chains;
- Easy to plug into the amfori BEPI Framework, addressing additional environmental impacts;
- Access to credible widely used tools and standards, based on industry collaboration;
- Credible program supporting supply chain risk management and reputation management.

**Target group:**

Producers in all tiers of supply chains

**Contact Person:**

Yolanda Kwok ([info@amfori.org](mailto:info@amfori.org))

**More information:**





**Tool:**

**UN Responsible Production Toolkit**

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**Areas of application:**

SMEs and value chains

**Brief description:**

The Responsible Production Toolkit by the UN Environment Programme supports SMEs (and their business partners, local authorities, and concerned public/communities) to improve hazard identification, chemical hazard management, accident prevention, and stakeholder engagement and communication. By using the toolkit, SMEs can enhance their safety, community engagement, reduce environmental impacts, and enable commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The toolkit offers a 5-step framework with different basic and advanced tools (such as Chemical Inventory or Hazard Classification). The basic tools should all be used to ensure responsible production. The advanced tools provide additional guidance for companies who are looking to advance and improve.



**Tool benefits:**

- Comprehensive guidance to use the toolkit;
- Core technical materials for operationalising the framework;
- Includes basic and advanced tools.

**Target group:**

SMEs Managers/safety offices, local authorities/government officials, technical institutions

**Contact Person:**

Johanna Suikkanen ([info@amfori.org](mailto:info@amfori.org))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**AFIRM group tools**

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**Areas of application:**

Textile and footwear production

**Brief description:**

The Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management (AFIRM) Group is a brand-driven membership organization of apparel and footwear companies collaborating to promote chemicals management in the global supply chain. The group providing resources to enable continuous advancement of chemical management best practices. The group provides the following tools & guidance: Restricted Substance List, Packaging RSL, Chemistry Toolkit, Chemical Information Sheets, and Test Methods. In addition, the AFIRM offers comprehensive and detailed guidance for each tool.



**Tool benefits:**

- Comprehensive guidance to use tools;
- Tools are available in 6 languages (English, Chinese, Bahasa, Japanese, Spanish, and Vietnamese);
- Annually updates and up to date information.

**Target group:**

Brands, retailers, textile producers

**Contact Person:**

Nathaniel Sponsler ([nsponsler@phylmar.com](mailto:nsponsler@phylmar.com))

**More information:**



**Tool:**

**UNIDO Chemical Leasing Model**

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**Areas of application:**

Chemical users and chemical supplier

**Brief description:**

Chemical Leasing is a performance-based business model for sustainable chemicals management by UNIDO. The Model enhances more efficient use of chemicals by redefining the partnership between the chemical supplier and chemical user. The model reinvents the business relationship between partners and sets new standards of success and business transformation. The strong cooperation and mutual trust-based model enables, besides the standard business transaction, a continuous and mutual exchange of know-how and references, which results in benefits for both partners such as long-term relations and economic benefits. Both partners are in a constant exchange of the current processes and rethinking new approaches and improvements of the chemical usage.



**Tool benefits:**

- Less consumption of chemicals and other resources & less hazardous chemicals;
- Less negative effect to the environment, health and safety;
- More incentives for reuse and recycling of chemicals;
- More added value & quality.

**Target group:**

Manufacturer, distributors, trader of chemicals, companies

**Contact Person:**

[ChemicalLeasing@unido.org](mailto:ChemicalLeasing@unido.org)

**More information:**



**Online Platform:**

**Asia Garment Hub (AGH)**

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**Areas of application:**

Industry professionals, practitioners, and policymakers

**Brief description:**

As a one-stop online portal, the AGH offers comprehensive knowledge, industry data, information and tools on decent work and sustainability in the garment and textile industry. In addition, the AGH acts as an interactive contact pool for networking and exchange with other industry experts. It is free of charge and available in 10 different languages, including Bengali, Chinese, Khmer and Vietnamese. The launch of the platform is scheduled for early summer 2021.



**Platform features:**

- A comprehensive resource library;
- Interactive industry map;
- Country data and insights;
- Vivid online discussion forum on up-to-date topics;
- Access to training materials and expert pool.

**Target group:**

Producers, associations, brands and initiatives in the Asian textile and garment industry

**Contact Person:**

Alexandra Behns ([alexandra.Behns@giz.de](mailto:alexandra.Behns@giz.de))

**More information:**





## ABOUT FABRIC

The project FABRIC (Fostering and Advancing Sustainable Business and Responsible Industrial Practices in the Clothing Industry in Asia) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). To successfully shape the desired economic growth in Asia's textile and garment production in a

sustainable way, many parties need to be involved. GIZ's FABRIC project brings together people from the Asian industry, public sectors, NGOs, and from international buyers, promoting knowledge transfer and cooperation. FABRIC is working in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Viet Nam and together with China to strengthen an industry that offers quality. Jobs, protect the environment, and contributes to economic growth.

## Contact

### Mrs. Alexandra Behns

FABRIC Asia | Coordinator Regional Cooperation & Country Coordinator China

Fostering and Advancing Sustainable Business and Responsible Industrial Practices in the Clothing Industry in Asia (FABRIC)

**giz** | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building 1-14-1  
14 Liangmahe Nanlu, Chaoyang District  
100600 Beijing, P.R. China

T + 86 10 8532 1857 ext. 221  
M + 86 1861 2084 881  
E [Alexandra.Behns@giz.de](mailto:Alexandra.Behns@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)



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FABRIC Asia  
No. 27, Street 302,  
Boeung Keng Kang 1  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
T +855 23 860 110  
E [giz-cambodia@giz.de](mailto:giz-cambodia@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de/cambodia](http://www.giz.de/cambodia)

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Addresses of the BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 228 99 535 - 0 F +49 228 99 535 - 3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 30 18 535 - 0 F +49 30 18 535 - 2501
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E [poststelle@bmz.bund.de](mailto:poststelle@bmz.bund.de)  
I [www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)

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