

Introduction to the RSL Supplier Toolkit



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The RSL Supplier Toolkit

•WHAT?

- A new document created by an AFIRM Working Group with cooperation from the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA).
- Overview of how to begin an implementation of an RSL program.

•WHY?

- Most suppliers are under pressure regarding RSL requirements.
- Many different companies, products and rules.
- Explanation of why an RSL program is important to suppliers, brands, consumers and the environment.



Intro to the RSL Supplier Toolkit

Seven Parts

- **Section I** – Introduction to Restricted Substances
- **Section II** – The RSL
- **Section III** – What are the risks?
- **Section IV** – Educating the Supply Chain
- **Section V** – RSL Testing
- **Section VI** – RSL Implementation
- **Section VII** – RSL Links to AFIRM companies



Section I - Introduction

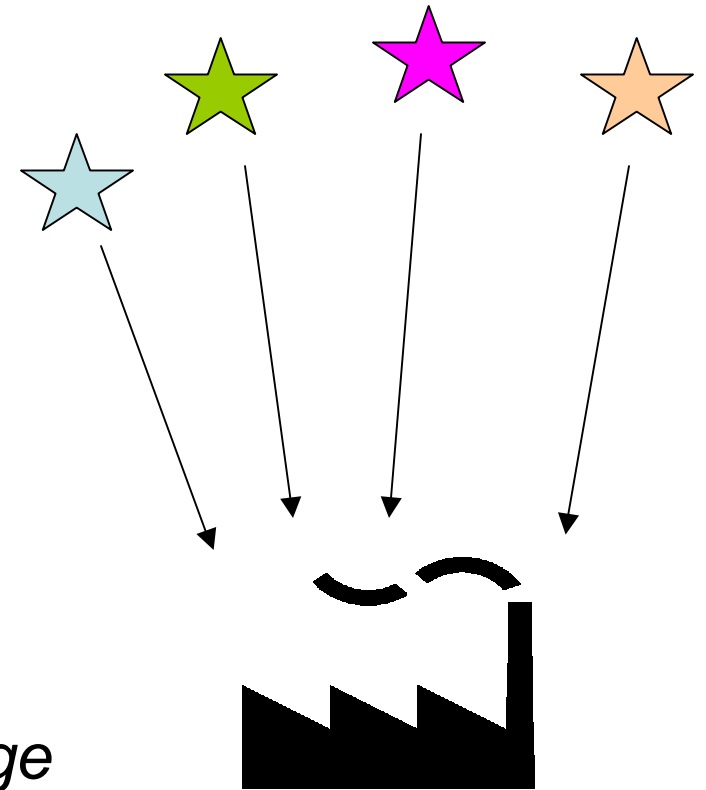
- What is a “Restricted Substance”
- Why are they restricted?
- How are they restricted?
- Purpose of the RSL.
- How companies use RSLs.



Section II – The RSL

- A company's RSL depends on:
 - Their products
 - The markets they sell in
 - Ongoing Legislation

As a supplier, it is necessary to manage several different RSLs at one time.

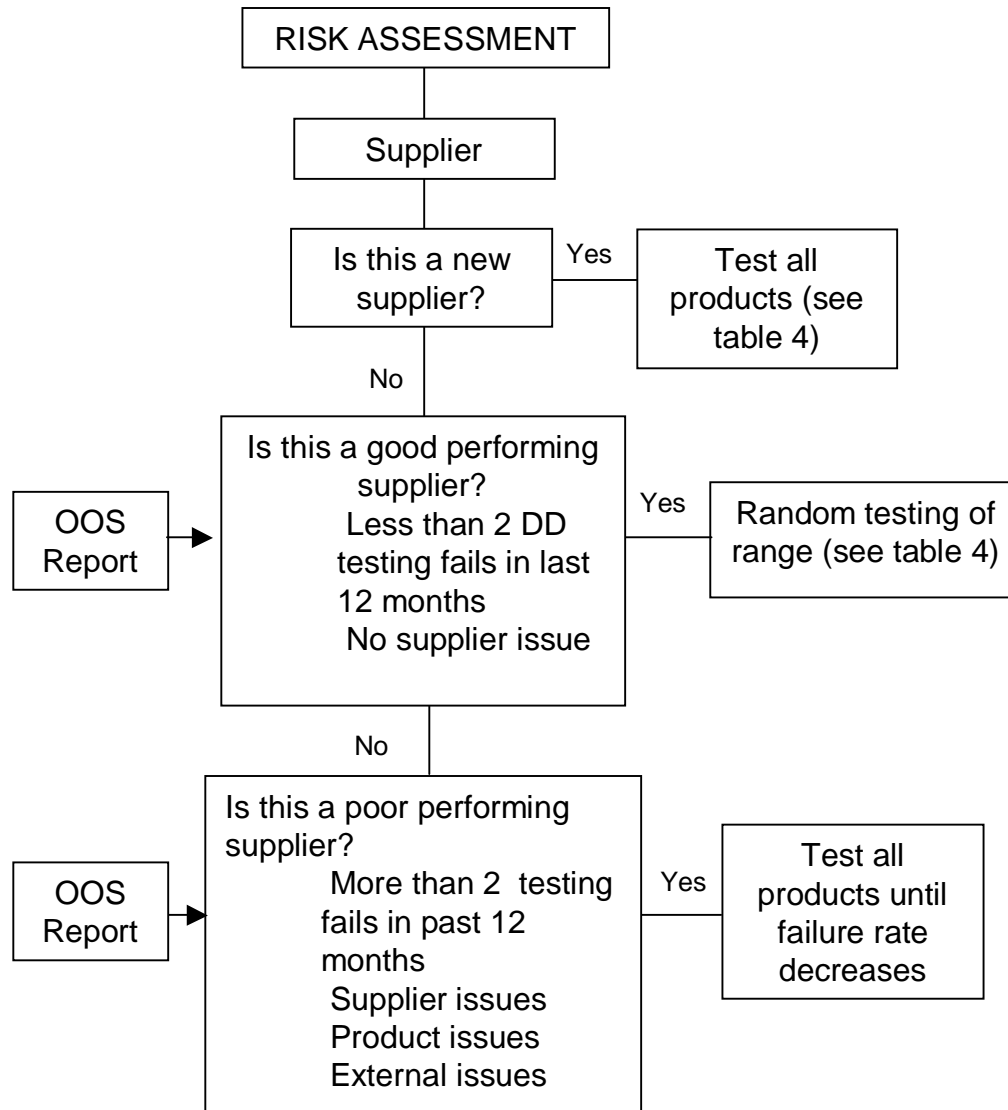


Section III – What (where) are the risks?

- Guidelines on where restricted substances can be found
- Example of a RSL testing program.
- Backgrounds on types of most common restricted substances

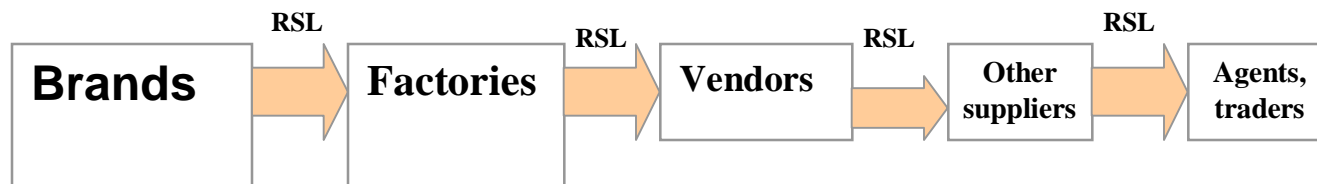
Example - Cadmium

Description:	Cadmium is a naturally occurring and abundant metal that does not easily corrode (rust). It is often used for pigments, metal coatings, plastics (as a heat stabilizer), photographic films and batteries.
Where Found:	In textiles and apparel, cadmium may be associated with plastics, pigments (particularly red, orange, yellow, and green), and as a surface layer for metals



Section IV – Educating the Supply Chain

- How an RSL program travels the supply chain.
- Responsibilities of each member in the supply chain.
- Choosing and managing manufacturing partners.
- How to educate your suppliers.



Section V – RSL Testing

- Testing requirements and programs mandated by brands.
- Trust, but verify.
- How to qualify laboratory testing vendors.



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Laboratory Qualification

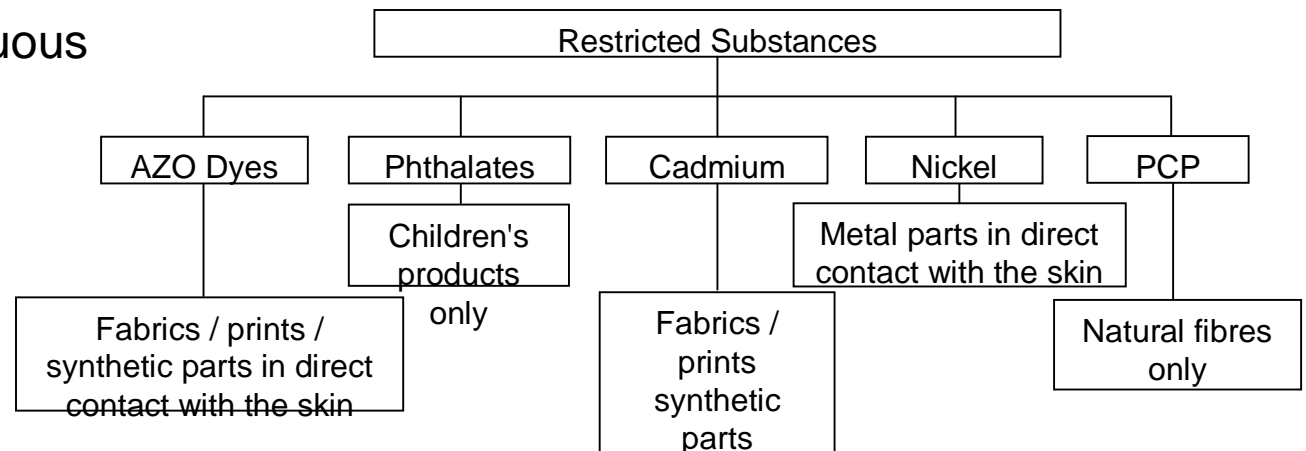
- Does the lab hold certifications or accreditations? From whom?
- Does the lab follow GLP (Good Laboratory Practices) or ISO 17025 guidelines?
- Does the lab have a Quality Policy Statement or other document stating general quality procedures?
- What was the date and result of a recent external audit? Is a report available?
- Does the lab belong to any private quality assurance organization?
- Does the lab regularly participate in any round-robin or blind sample testing?
- Is the lab open to a site visit or audit?
- Are in-house protocols written and in manuals? Are they available?
- Has the lab ever been denied or lost certification?
- Is a list of key scientists, including degrees, certifications, etc., available?
- Is a list of major, on-site analytical equipment available?
- Is a list of reference methods the lab routinely performs available?
- Is a list of sample handling and preparation capabilities available?
- Approximately how many analyses are conducted per month or year?
- What percentage of the lab's analyses are subcontracted to a third party?
- In what languages are reports available?
- Are data processed by hand or computer?
- Does the lab have an automated laboratory information management system (LIMS)?



Section VI – RSL Implementation

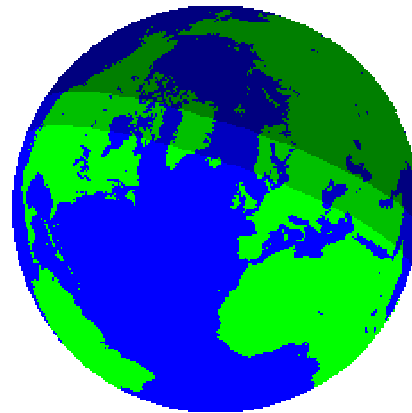
- “Model” Implementation Example
 - Step 1 – Internal Communication
 - Step 2 – Communication to Suppliers
 - Step 3 – Testing and Reporting Results
 - Step 4 – Continuous Improvement

Example: Footwear



Section VII – Brand RSL Examples

- Nike
 - <http://www.nikeresponsibility.com/rsl>
 - <http://www.levistrauss.com/downloads/RSL2008.pdf>
 - http://www.hm.com/gb/corporateresponsibility/downloads_downloads.nhtml



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Appendix – Additional Resources

- Glossary
- Factory Management Plan
- Model RSL Management Plan
- Model Testing Program
- Best Practices to Avoid RSL Issues
- AFIRM FAQ



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Where do I get it?

- Go to:
<http://www.afirm-group.com/>

Click Here



Thank you.

