

AFIRM History & Industry Landscape for Restricted Substances

Nathaniel Sponsler, AFIRM Group Director | **AFIRM GROUP**



2004: AFIRM Group Established

Apparel & Footwear International RSL Management Group

Founding Members

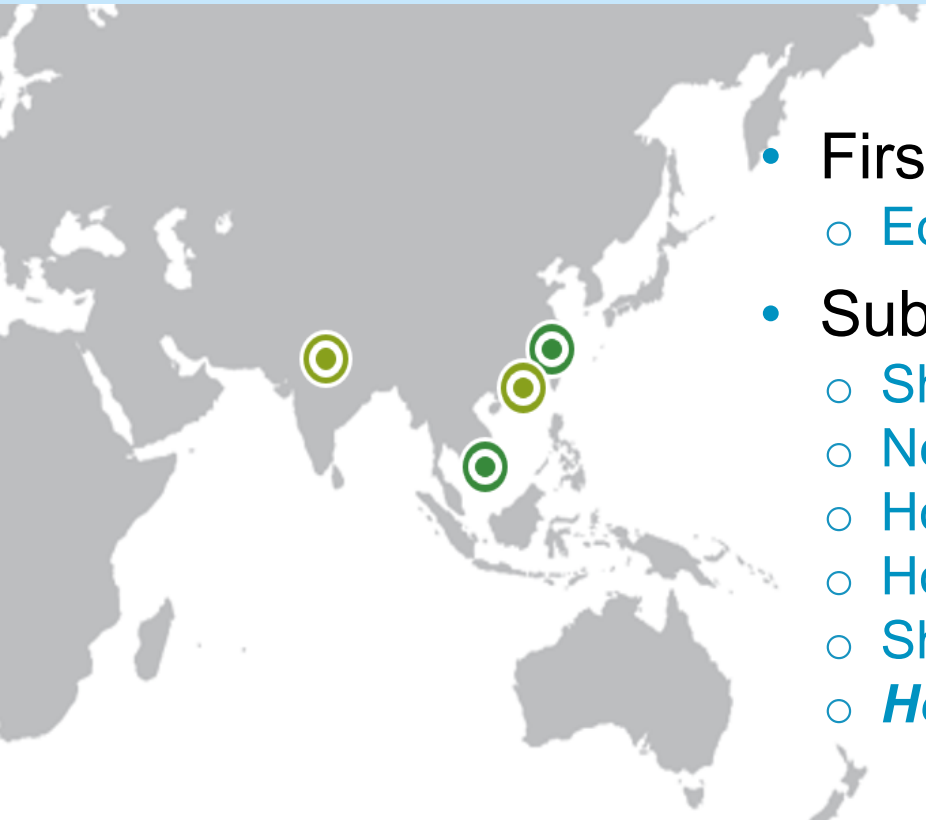


- Primary goals: adoption of RSLs across industry and education of the supply chain
 - Common RSL proved difficult
 - Unanimity voting requirement



2006: First AFIRM Supplier Seminar

Apparel & Footwear International RSL Management Group



- First supplier seminar: Hong Kong
 - Education on RSL and implementation
- Subsequent seminars
 - Shanghai — 2007
 - New Delhi — 2008
 - Hong Kong — 2010
 - Ho Chi Minh City — 2012
 - Shanghai — 2014
 - **Ho Chi Minh City — 2018**

AFIRM Membership: 8 Companies



2006: Europe Enacts REACH

Registration, Evaluation, Authorization of Chemicals

- Substances of very high concern (SVHC) regulated in imported goods
- Annex 17



2008: Chemical Regulations Take Off

After REACH, Dramatic Spike in Chemical Regulations

- “Retailer as regulator” model takes hold
- Cost of compliance & access to market concerns
 - European Union
 - United States
 - Individual U.S. States
 - Asia
 - *U.S. Counties & Cities?*



AFIRM Membership: 14 Companies



2010: Brand RSLs Proliferate

250+ Product RSLs in the Apparel & Footwear Industry

- Different chemicals, limits, methods and formats
 - Estimated 12,000 pages of chemical restrictions
- Very challenging for supply chain
 - Why is this happening?
 - Is this the proper way to manage industry?



2012: AFIRM RSL Guidance Published

A Big Step Toward a Common RSL

Substance/Parameter	Current Limit	Guideline Method	Guideline Method	Current Method	Current Limit
AFIRM (RSL) Limit (CAS No. 141-96-07)					
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
AFIRM (RSL) Limit (CAS No. 141-96-07)					
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
AFIRM (RSL) Limit (CAS No. 141-96-07)					
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
AFIRM (RSL) Limit (CAS No. 141-96-07)					
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
AFIRM (RSL) Limit (CAS No. 141-96-07)					
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)
Lead	100 ppm	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)	100 ppm (100-1000)

- Compilation of brands' strictest limits
 - Some exceptions
- Would brands adopt in place of own RSL?

2015: AFIRM RSL Published

AFIRM and Non-AFIRM Brands are Adopting



- Common RSL that goes beyond globally regulated limits
- Simplify compliance / gain efficiencies
- Demonstrate maturity / model legislation
- Updated: 2017, 2018, **2019**



Apparel Industry: Chemicals Management Landscape

AFIRM's Role



- Working group of leading brands (International)
- AFIRM RSL: stricter than global regulation
- Lead industry / anticipate regulations / policy engagement



- US Trade Association with broad scope
- AAFA RSL based on regulations only

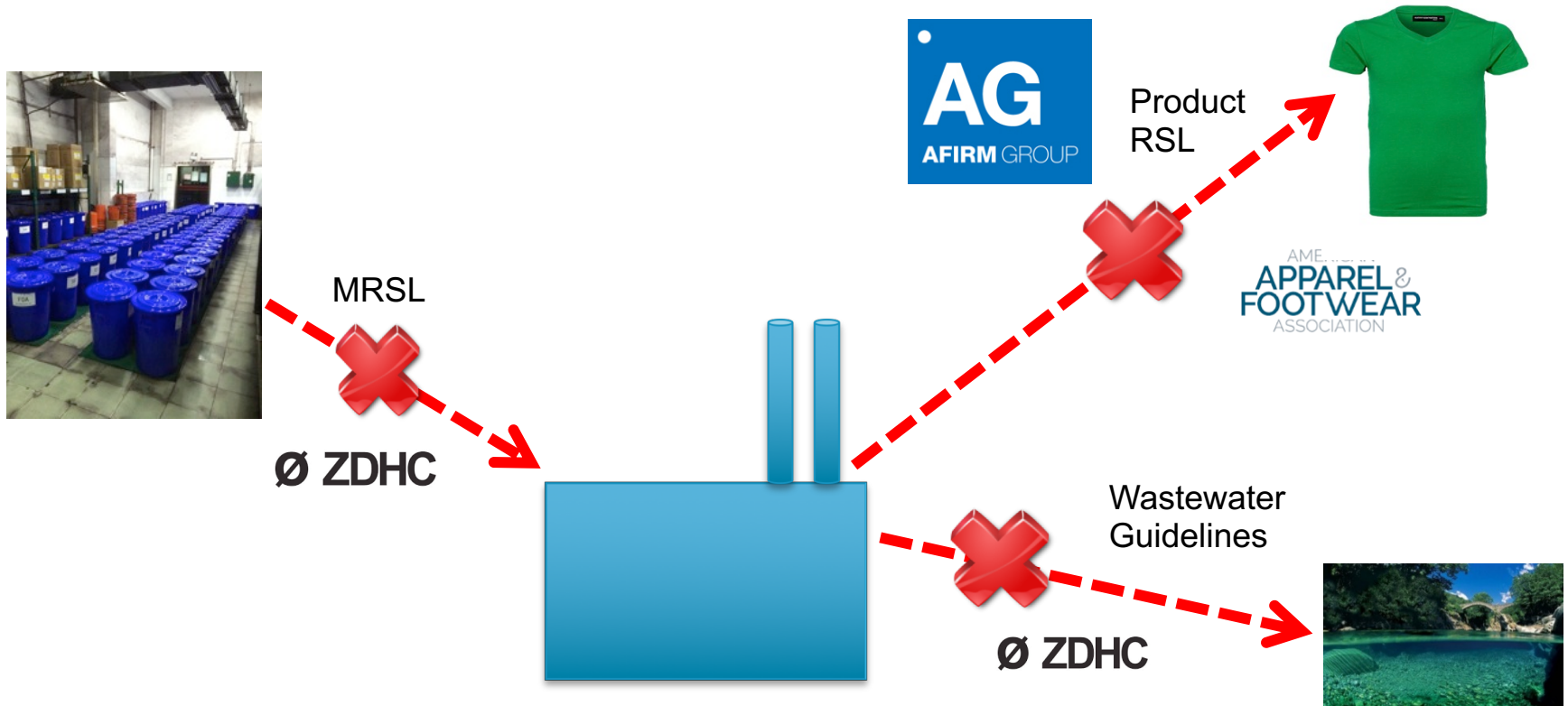


- Staff-driven Foundation based in Amsterdam
- Primary Focus: Input chemistry controls (MRSL) & Wastewater controls



Industry Landscape: RSL vs. MRSL

Inputs & Outputs



AFIRM Today and in the Future

Apparel & Footwear International RSL Management Group

- Evolve and promote the AFIRM RSL
- Product chemical regulatory policy engagement and compliance
- Partnerships and supply chain education



AFIRM Membership: 26 Companies



Thank You to our Sponsors!



BESTSELLER

