



# **CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS**

# Instructions for the Interactive Group Exercise



## **16.00 - 16.25 pm**

Interactive sessions at each table (*AFIRM Members attending the seminar will help*):

- Choose a table leader and a note taker
- Choose from scenario 1 or 2
- Review scenario and discuss the brainstorming questions as a group

## **16.25 - 16.45 pm**

We will choose 4 volunteers to present their findings (*5 mins each*)

## **16.45 - 17.15pm**

Open Q&A Session

# Scenario 1 - Failure Resolution on a Garment/Fabric



Finished Garment Testing in bulk production has just resulted in a failure for Nonylphenoethoxylate (NPEO) at 235 ppm in the main body fabric of a t-shirt. The customer follows AFIRM's Restricted Substance List (RSL) which has a limit for NPEO at 100 ppm. The factory works with external suppliers and purchases the fabric from a mill whom they've had a long standing relationship with. They've never experienced an NPEO failure with this mill before. 20% of production has been completed already and the exit factory date is in three weeks.

## Brainstorming questions:

- How would you design this investigation to identify the root cause? E.g., How would you use traceability tools or digital platforms to pinpoint the contamination source?
- What steps within the production process would you investigate first?
- How would you verify whether this is an isolated incident or part of a broader compliance issue?
- Once the root cause has been identified, what steps would be beneficial for a preventative action to ensure continued delivery of compliant garments?

# Scenario 2 - Ensuring Compliance



New limits for a newly regulated substance such as Bisphenol A (BPA) or Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is coming into effect, and brands are requiring their suppliers to meet these new limits.

## Brainstorming questions:

- What steps do you take to ensure compliance?
- How do you prevent contamination (from other lines, cleaners, etc) during production?
- If a chemical formulation needs to be removed from production, how do you ensure the replacement is free of the regulated substances and not more hazardous?