



Choose certainty.
Add value.

Restricted Substances List

Keep abreast of requirements
regarding hazardous substances.

Your challenges

Manufacturing consumer products such as textiles, footwear, electrical goods and toys is a complicated process involving a wide range of chemicals and materials. It is important for manufacturers and retailers to remain compliant with the various prohibitions, limitations and other provisions of governments and industry associations.

As different regions have many different laws and regulations affecting each product, ensuring compliance can be a challenge. In addition, many new prohibitions and changes to existing prohibitions are expected in the future, such as changes in EN 71, RoHS and continuous updates in REACH. Manufacturers and retailers need to quickly establish the applicability of these prohibitions to their products in order to meet legal requirements.

What is a Restricted Substances List?

Many governments, industry associations and buyers create Restricted Substances Lists (RSL) in response

to increasing public concern about product safety and environmental protection. These lists restrict the use or existence of certain carcinogenic, mutagenic, reproductive toxic, endocrine disruptive and non-biodegradable chemicals and substances in finished textiles, apparel, footwear products, toys, electrical goods as well as hardline items.

Why is an RSL important for your business?

Many restricted chemicals and substances continue to be used in both wet and dry material processing. Other dangerous substances are used to improve the functional performance of products such as fabrics and electrical goods. The RSL is a practical tool to help your business become more alert to the amount of chemicals and materials permitted in your products. It enables you to control the use of these substances in your own processes, as well as those of your suppliers and retailers across your value chain. This is increasingly important, as most major brands now insist that their stakeholders and partners conform to RSL guidelines.

EXAMPLES OF RESTRICTED CHEMICALS AND SUBSTANCES

Cadmium, mercury, lead and hexavalent chromium in materials like paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal and wood

Print and paint used as a coating in materials like textile, leather, metal, toys, etc.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in plasticised and rubber components of consumer products

Azo dyes and heavy metals for enhancing fabric colour

Formaldehyde for wrinkle-free garments

Migration of heavy elements, such as Barium, in toys

SOURCES OF RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES

Heavy metals from dyes, pigments, plastics and certain process inputs such as mercury from caustic used for scouring and mercerisation

Phthalates from PVC and non-PVC materials, plastisol printing, transfer prints and plastics used as a softening agent of polymers

Pesticides used in cotton cultivation

Chlorophenols used during sizing and printing as a preservative for starch and leather

Certain Azo dyes – those that release carcinogenic arylamines

Formation of chromium (VI) during the leather tanning process

Our RSL services

TÜV SÜD assists manufacturers and retailers to understand the varying international regulations on hazardous substance use in different markets. We enable you to tailor your use of such materials to meet regulatory standards such as RoHS and REACH, as well as individual country requirements such as California Proposition 65. Our experts provide knowledge on issues you may face in aligning your use of hazardous substances to the RSL. We have the necessary laboratory facilities to offer testing solutions that determine your product's RSL compliance. In the event that you need to replace elements, we advise you on the use of alternative materials and components. In addition, we keep you updated on upcoming changes to RSL guidelines and how your products will be affected by these changes.

Your business benefits

- **Save money and time** – by ensuring that your products can achieve compliance with minimal delay or rework.
- **Minimise risk** – by keeping abreast of RSL guidelines, to avoid reputation-damaging product recalls.
- **Gain a competitive edge** – by providing assurance and confidence to retailers and consumers that your product is manufactured with critical consideration for chemical safety.
- **Benefit from an expert partnership** – with in-depth understanding of the latest changes and updates to the varying guidelines and regulations.

Why choose TÜV SÜD?

TÜV SÜD's range of safety marks for chemical content is backed by our reputation as an independent solutions provider and helps demonstrate your commitment to safety. Our dedicated experts are highly qualified in various consumer product items, providing safety consultancy services that go from product inception through risk analysis to the finished product. We have more than 100 accreditations worldwide, enabling us to expedite your testing, inspection and certification needs by carrying out multiple services on your product. Our experts offer extensive knowledge of the relevant market regulations in standards, testing and conformity requirements so that your product remains in line with the latest regulatory changes.

Choose certainty. Add value.

TÜV SÜD is a premium quality, safety and sustainability solutions provider that specialises in testing, inspection, auditing, certification, training and knowledge services. Represented in over 800 locations worldwide, we hold accreditations in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. By delivering objective solutions to our customers, we add tangible value to businesses, consumers and the environment.

Related services

TÜV SÜD provides the following related services:

- Chemical testing
- Quality and performance testing
- Prototype testing
- TÜV SÜD TexCheck Mark
- TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark
- TÜV SÜD Toy Mark