

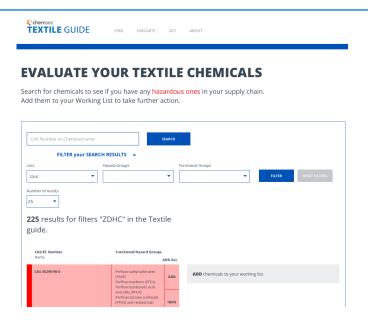
# Working with the Textile Guide

ChemSec's Textile Guide is a tool that walks you through the process of chemicals management from a textile industry perspective. Users learn to identify the relevant problematic chemicals and find ideas on how to phase them out. You do not need to be a chemical expert to be able to use the Textile Guide but rather any person in any textile company in the whole textile supply chain should be able to use the information and get started. The following fictional cases from two different actors in the supply chain give you a feel of the tool and how to use it. Note that this tool can be useful for companies in other sectors as well.

#### Case 1 – The Dye House

First we have a dye house whose main customers have adopted the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) "Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (mRSL).

The most important consideration for the dye house is to make sure it can comply with the ZDHC mRSL requirements. As a first step, we can move directly into the Textile Guide Database. On the main page of the database, we have a drop-down menu called "Filter the Textile Guide". Click the drop-down menu and go to the filter option called "Lists". Here, you will find another drop down-menu where you can choose the different lists included in the database. Depending on what you are interested in, you are able to filter the database. If other restricted substance lists would apply to your situation, you can add them as well. Remember the dye house was interested in the ZDHC mRSL so let's select that. Then click the button "filter". This will give you a list of 225 substances. This is a rather big list and you will need to communicate it to your chemical suppliers to make sure their formulations are safe to use in their processes.



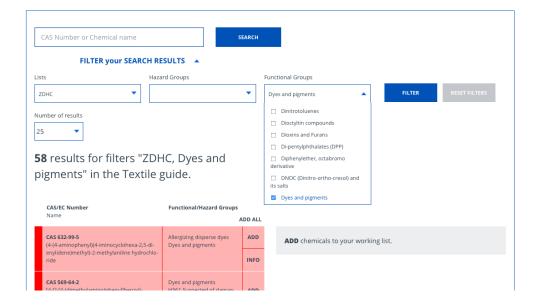


If you are only interested in specific dyes and pigments, you could choose to filter for such substances as well. Go to the filter "Functional groups" and tick the box "Dyes and Pigments" and it will give you 58 results instead. Note that auxiliary chemicals such as solvents, even if they are used in dyeing formulations are not included in this example.



#### **EVALUATE YOUR TEXTILE CHEMICALS**

Search for chemicals to see if you have any hazardous ones in your supply chain. Add them to your Working List to take further action.



So now the Dye house wants to have more information on each chemical. By clicking the "Info" button as seen on each chemical they can see exactly which of the lists include a specific substance and which companies have restricted a particular substance.

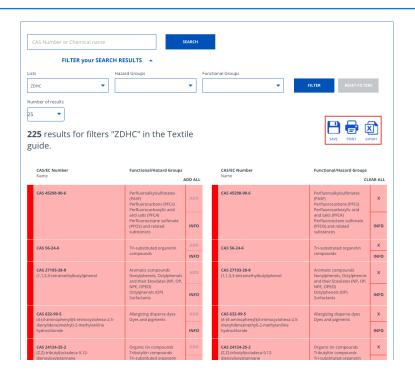
For now we remove this filter and return to the 225 substances we want to communicate to our suppliers.

We click the button "Add all" to move all 225 substances to our working list. If you want to share this list with your suppliers you should press "Save" in the top, this will allow you to choose a name for your list, let's call this one "Dye house List" As soon as you have done this, the database will create a unique randomized URL as seen in the top of the window.





The "Save" icon is now replaced by a "Share" icon instead. You click it, and it will open your email-client inserting your unique URL. You are now ready to share it with customers, suppliers or colleagues. Once they click on your link, they will see exactly what you see on the screen. You also have the option to print it or export your working list to an Excel file.

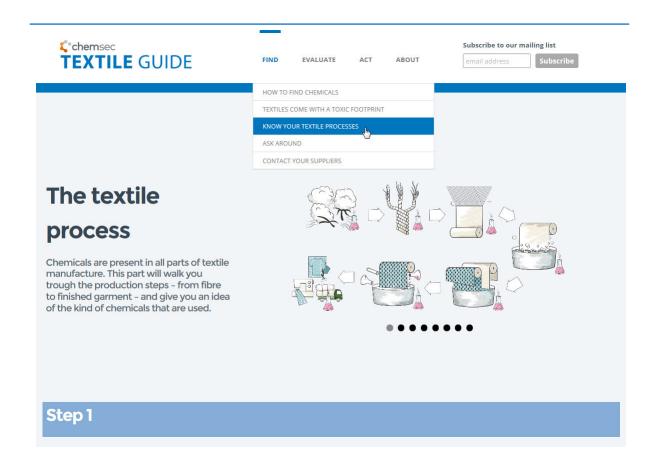




### **Case 2 – Small European brand**

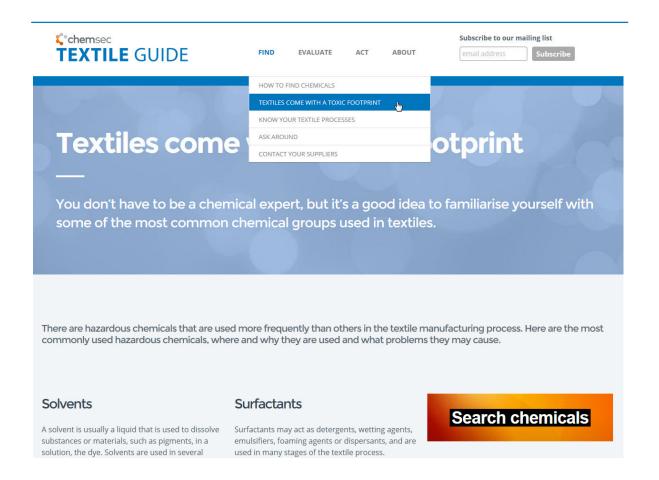
The next fictional company is a small European brand that wants to become eco-label certified.

Being a small brand it is sometimes difficult to keep track of everything in the business, especially with regard to chemicals. This company is very concerned with toxic chemicals and is therefore interested in becoming ecolabelled and doesn't really know where to start. The best starting point for this company is to get a better understanding of the textile manufacturing process by going to the website "Find/Know your textile processes". It will explain which chemicals are of particular concern in each of the production steps, from fibre to fashion.



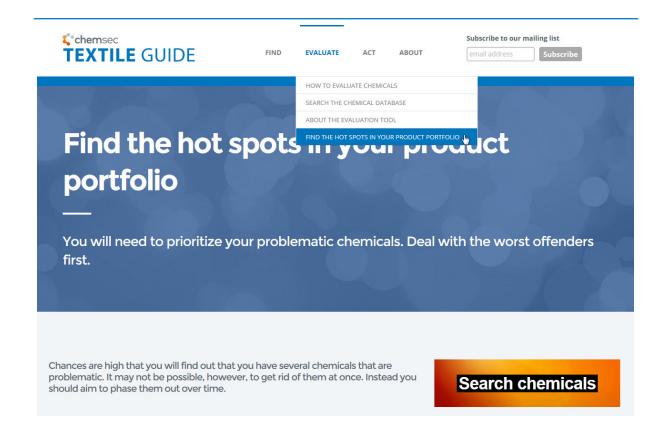


There are a number of substance groups which are particularly problematic. Those are highlighted in the "find" menu in the top navigation under "Textiles come with a toxic footprint". Knowing which kind of substance groups to avoid such as water repellents and plasticizers could influence already at the design stage how a garment should look and feel like.





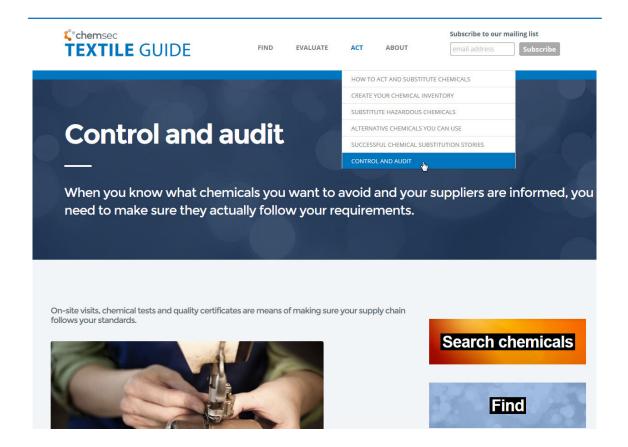
The next step is to visit the "Evaluate/Find" menu and find the hot spots in your product portfolio. In this section we elaborate why you should focus your efforts on certain chemicals, one at a time. A small company might have difficulties doing everything at once. Here you get recommendations on what to consider both in-house as well as external requirements such as flag ship products, sensitive consumer groups, regulation and so on.



If this small brand wants to become Eco-labelled, they must be sure that their suppliers can actually deliver. Even if the brand does not have chemical expertise, they can easily go to the database and filter for the desired eco-label scheme and share it with the suppliers in the same way the dye house did in the previous example.



Control and audit is crucial to make sure what you have ordered is actually up to your desired standards. Here you should visit the "Act/Control and Audit" section which gives advice on how to improve the control over your goods. The section covers anything from asking for certificates to full-fledged testing procedures and on-site auditing - all depending on ambition, resources and company priorities.



## **Related links** ChemSec website chemsec.org

ChemSec Textile Guide textileguide.chemsec.org

Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) <a href="https://www.roadmaptozero.com">www.roadmaptozero.com</a>