

GC3 Retailer Leadership Council Update on 2018/19 activities

**GC3 Innovators Roundtable
Thursday May 9, 2:15 - 3:45 pm**



Goal of this session

- The RLC will provide an update on its work over the past year to identify priorities for chemical innovation and to develop a road map for increased transparency.
- The RLC is interested in engaging the entire supply chain in identifying next steps.

GC3 Retailer Leadership Council

RLC mission: *Promote safer chemicals, materials and products throughout retail supply and value chains.*

The RLC is an active learning community within GC3. RLC members meet on a monthly basis to:

- Hear from experts about tools and resources for safer chemistry
- Share best practices, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing chemical policies and strategies

GC3 Retailer Leadership Council Members



RLC members are guided by Joint Statement published in 2016

JOINT STATEMENT ON USING GREEN CHEMISTRY AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

Retailers are on the front lines of consumer concerns about the health and environmental impacts of chemicals in products. In response, retailers want to leverage their ability to help catalyze innovation and new solutions. Since spring 2014, thought leaders from seven major retailers¹² and five major chemical manufacturers³ have been in dialogue about improving product sustainability and finding ways to accelerate the development and scale up of green chemistry solutions as well as increase transparency in the value chain. Green chemistry, focused on the design and application of safer chemical products and processes, is a core element

of many firm's sustainability and/or sustainable chemistry programs. Retailers have shared feedback from their customers, their concerns about hazardous chemicals in products, and their priorities for safer products. Chemical manufacturers have shared publicly available information on their research, development, and commercialization processes, their processes for evaluating product safety and sustainability, the types of information they need to make the business case for pursuing green chemistry solutions, and their challenges in bringing these alternatives to market.



Developed by the Green Chemistry & Commerce Council (GC3) with participation from the following companies:



- Goal setting and continuous improvement
- Communication
- Transparency
- Information on new chemicals and safer alternatives
- Green chemistry education

<http://greenchemistryandcommerce.org/projects/retail>



Background on today's update

- Developed out of the RLC in-person meeting at GC3 Innovators Roundtable in May 2018
- RLC members reviewed the Joint Statement and shared how each retailer was executing on different elements, in particular, on ***continuous improvement, communication, and transparency***
- At that meeting, two issues rose to the top as priorities for potential collaboration:
Alignment on chemical innovation priorities (suppliers are asking for this alignment)
Transparency on chemical ingredients
- That discussion evolved into the work that the RLC is presenting today

Chemical Innovation Priorities

- Although each participating retailer has a different product assortment and therefore a different set of priorities for safer chemistry, the RLC has now collectively identified a set of chemical and application priorities for innovation in safer alternatives.

Chemical Innovation Priorities

CHEMICAL FUNCTION	PRIORITY PRODUCT CATEGORIES The collective priority product categories for safer alternatives identified by the RLC are noted here and provide information on application needs for the chemical functions of concern. Each participating retailer will continue to set priorities based on its unique product assortment.	PRIORITY CHEMICAL CLASSES/CHEMICALS (These are noted with the understanding that chemicals within a class may pose differing levels of hazard.)
Plasticizer	cleaning products, beauty and personal care products, office products, home improvement (e.g., flooring, sealants, paints, etc.), electronics (e.g., cords, cables), and textiles.	e.g., ortho phthalates
Water and stain repellent	food packaging, indoor and outdoor furniture, home improvement (e.g., paints and coatings), apparel and footwear, and carpeting.	e.g., perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals
Flame retardant	indoor and outdoor furniture, textiles, electronics, and carpet.	e.g., halogenated and organophosphates
Preservative and anti-microbial	beauty and personal care products, cleaning products, baby products, office products, and electronics (e.g., keyboards, mouse).	e.g., parabens, formaldehyde donors e.g., antimicrobials such as triclosan, triclocarban
Surfactant	cleaning products and personal care products.	e.g., alkylphenol ethoxylates and their breakdown products
Solvent	paint and ink removers and graffiti removers.	e.g., solvents such as methylene chloride, NMP

Transparency Road Map

- The RLC has developed a Road Map to encourage improvements in supply chain and public transparency.
- **This Road Map does not seek to set out requirements for suppliers.**
- Rather, it describes what the RLC views as best practices in the short-term (2019/20) and includes a longer-term vision that will need further development by all stakeholders.

Definitions

Formulated product is defined as: a preparation or mixture of chemical substances that can be gaseous, liquid, or solid (e.g., paints, liquid cleaning products, adhesives, coatings, cosmetics, detergents, dyes, inks, lubricants).

Food products/medicines are excluded from this definition.

Article is defined as: an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition.

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23036412/articles_en.pdf

For both formulated products and articles: In-scope products will vary by retailer, depending upon their company priorities and assortment.

Protecting CBI

It is understood that confidential business information must be protected and should be clearly identified by its owners.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) notes that ***“information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential.”***

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/SAICM_publication_ENG.pdf Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 15(c).

Transparency Road Map

		2019–2020	2021–2022	2022+
B to B data sharing (supply chain to retailer)	Formulated Products¹	<p>Comply with relevant labeling and ingredient disclosure regulations and requirements, plus:</p> <p>Disclose all intentionally added ingredients including components of generics such as fragrance and flavor</p> <p>Use threshold of 100 ppm in finished product. (except when regulations are more stringent)</p> <p>Note: CBI will be protected³</p>		<p>2019–20 best practice, plus:</p> <p>No threshold—disclose all intentionally added ingredient components of formulated products</p> <p>Note: CBI will be protected³</p>
	Articles²		Supply chain to work together to develop approach and determine best practices for collecting and sharing chemical ingredient information for articles in B to B context	Follow best practices for B to B data collection and sharing as determined in 2021–22
B to C data sharing (retailer to public)	Formulated Products¹	Comply with relevant labeling and ingredient disclosure regulations and requirements.	<p>2019–20 best practice, plus:</p> <p>Disclose all intentionally added ingredients, including components of generics such as fragrance and flavor</p> <p>Use threshold of 100 ppm in finished product. (except when regulations are more stringent)</p> <p>Note: CBI will be protected³</p>	<p>2021–2022 best practice, plus:</p> <p>No threshold—disclose all intentionally added ingredient components of formulated products. (This disclosure could be online or on label.)</p> <p>Note: CBI will be protected³</p>
	Articles²		Supply chain to work together to develop approach and determine best practices for collecting and sharing chemical ingredient information for articles in B to C context.	Follow best practices for B to C data collection and sharing as determined in 2021–22

Questions

- Is your company working toward achieving transparency about chemical ingredients for formulated products? For articles?
- If yes, what challenges are you facing in doing so?
- If no, what are the main obstacles/barriers to doing so?
- What is needed to achieve these goals?
- What are your suggestions for immediate next steps?

Are you interested in continuing this dialogue with the GC3 Retailer Leadership Council?

- If so, please note your name and email contact information on sign-up sheet