

- **Recently published Greenpeace International Leadership Board ranking is not factually based.**
- **adidas Group strictly adheres to the commitment given to Greenpeace International when the Detox campaign was launched.**
- **adidas Group reiterates its leadership in transparency, policy implementation and verification.**
- **adidas Group remains committed to the collective goal aiming to eliminate hazardous chemicals in the textile industry.**

On 31 October 2013, Greenpeace International published the 'Leadership Board (LSB)', an evaluation of apparel brands' commitments, progress and achievements in the elimination and reduction of hazardous chemicals in their global supply chains.

This initiative is part of a broader campaign run by Greenpeace International to demand consumer brands apply pressure to the chemicals industry and downstream manufacturers to eliminate all hazardous chemicals from all pathways across all supply tiers.

Greenpeace International ranking is not factually based.

While we share Greenpeace concerns about pollution of the aquatic environment, in particular in less developed countries and emerging market economies, we do not agree with Greenpeace's ranking, according to which the adidas Group has been defined as a 'Greenwasher'.

We continue to uphold and fulfil the commitments we made to Greenpeace when they first launched their campaign, and to deliver against these. And to aid us in this, we were a founding member of the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Initiative, launched in 2010 to drive change in industry practices.

The adidas Group is globally recognised as a leader in environmental sustainability. In fact, contrary to what has been reported, we have been ranked by the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE), with whom Greenpeace has partnered, as one of the four top performing brands in our industry in China.

For years, we have been successfully working to reduce and progressively eliminate hazardous chemicals in our supply chain. Significant milestones of our track record have been:

The adidas Group is leader in disclosure practices.

- As part of our commitment to transparency, all relevant policies, guidelines and procedures that the Group has put in place to ensure sound chemical management in our supply chain are publicly available. This includes:

- The [Restricted Substances Policy](#) for product materials, prohibiting the use of chemicals considered as harmful or toxic. This ensures consumer safety.
- The [Health & Safety Guidelines, Environmental Guidelines and the Guide to Best Environmental Practice](#), with standards for suppliers on handling, storage and disposal of chemicals, as well as standards for waste water treatment and effluents. These guidelines include a list of chemicals prohibited in the manufacturing processes.
- The adidas Group has a clear policy in place for our suppliers to follow in case any of them is listed in the 'Pollution Map Database' of the Chinese Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE), a public and online database which tracks all air and water violations by factories throughout China. Should this happen, the supplier is required to take immediate remedial action to address the non-compliance identified, in close communication with IPE.
- The adidas Group has substantially contributed to the [Benchmarking Report](#) carried out by the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) to fully map out chemicals management practices in the production phase. The study is the result of site visits conducted at 20 suppliers in Asia. Test results revealed that none of the factories was releasing untreated wastewater into a surface water body or to a municipal treatment system, and, in the majority of cases, factory discharge was well below any available discharge limits for effluent.

The adidas Group policies are scientifically proven and strictly implemented.

Our policies are reviewed regularly and updated according to the most current international legal and industry standards, always taking into account the latest scientific findings. Not only do our policies cover the strictest local requirements, they also include best practice standards as recommended by consumer organisations. Again, it is of utmost importance for us that policy implementation is not only ensured by a team of experts deployed on the ground, but also independently monitored by external parties.

As part of the adidas Group [Environmental Sourcing Strategy](#), in 2012, nearly 200 environmental audits were conducted in our supply chain. Mills and dye-houses are among the primary targets for these environmental audits.

adidas Group remains committed to the collective goal of eliminating the use of hazardous chemicals in the textile industry

As indicated in our Environmental Guidelines, we are the only brand, globally, to have formally committed to the zero use of 12 specific hazardous chemicals, which have been banned from our suppliers' manufacturing sites. We have had this ban in place for more than a decade and



therefore understand well the practical challenges in implementing a zero hazardous chemicals policy.

More recently, we have notified our business partners on the ban of APEOs and have announced the phase-out of long-chain PFCs in our supply chain by no later than January 1, 2015.

The management of chemicals in multi-tiered supply chains is a complex challenge, requiring many actors to play a role in developing effective and sustainable solutions. We are convinced that, through effective collaboration and a stringent regulatory environment as set by governments, significant progress can be achieved in the years to come.