



# Reducing Our Chemical Footprint

Smart, safe, preferred chemistry is at the core of VF's promise to deliver responsibly made products, and it plays an integral role in protecting people and the planet. Responsibly managed chemistry enables us to create high-performance products that consumers trust.

**Our goal is to eliminate and/or restrict 100% of unwanted chemicals or substances\*, using the innovative CHEM-IQ<sup>SM</sup> program from VF's supply chain by 2025.**

\*Classes of unwanted chemicals or substances – Azo dyes (Banned Amines)<sup>1</sup>, Disperse and other dyes (sensitizing)<sup>1</sup>, formaldehyde<sup>1</sup>, NPEOs<sup>1</sup>, PFASs<sup>1,2</sup>, Restricted Phthalates<sup>1</sup>, Chlorobenzenes and Chlorotoluenes<sup>1</sup>, Chlorophenols<sup>1</sup>, Flame Retardants<sup>1</sup>, Halogenated Solvents<sup>1</sup>, Organotin compounds<sup>1</sup>, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)<sup>1</sup>, Heavy metals<sup>1</sup>, volatile organic compounds (VOCs)<sup>1</sup>.

1 – Restrictions/prohibitions to the use of these chemical substances and/or classes of chemicals are included in VF Restricted Substance List policy.

2 – PFAS: The OECD defines PFAS chemistry based on their molecular structures. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances are a class of chemicals that contain one or more perfluoroalkyl moieties, – C<sub>n</sub>F<sub>2n+1</sub>, and have diverse physical, chemical and biological properties. They include non-polymeric (such as PFOA, PFOS) and polymeric substances (such as PTFE). In the past, PFASs were often referred to as “PFCs” (per- and polyfluorinated chemicals). VF had a goal to eliminate PFCs from our outerwear apparel since 2016 and we are committed to expanding this goal to include all product categories. We have already eliminated non-polymeric long-chain PFAS substances. While we explore technologies to further eliminate PTFE, for less than 1% of materials used across all VF products that contain polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), we are undertaking extensive training, education and are investing to use responsibly manufactured fluoropolymers.

## How do we plan to do it?

We are continuously expanding the CHEM-IQ<sup>SM</sup> program and have committed that 100% of in-scope VF Tier 1 and nominated Tier 2 suppliers will be screened annually using the CHEM-IQ<sup>SM</sup> program. Learn more about the innovative CHEM-IQ<sup>SM</sup> program [here](#).



## Definitions

### Tier 1 (Finished Product Assembly)

Authorized supplier facilities responsible for assembling and manufacturing the final product. Products are packaged for shipment to distribution centers. Typical activities include cutting, sewing, laundry, printing and embroidery.

### Tier 2 (Material Production)

Authorized supplier facilities that process and transform raw materials, and product trims for use on the final product. Typical activities include:

- Weaving, dyeing and knitting fabric
- Leather finishing
- Down sorting
- Production of rubber outsoles
- Production of labels, hang tags, trims and fasteners

### In-scope

VF Tier 1 factories and nominated Tier 2 suppliers that use process chemicals are deemed in-scope for the Chem-IQ<sup>SM</sup> program.

### Process Chemicals

Process chemicals are chemical auxiliaries used to manufacture materials and/or end-product.

### Eliminate

VF considers a substance to have been eliminated based on Chem-IQ<sup>SM</sup> screening results, RSL test reports, and/or verification through in-person factory evaluations. In the event of non-compliance, evidence of a completed corrective action plan with associated test reports may also be considered acceptable.

### Restrict

Restriction applies for chemicals that convey an intrinsic or vital property, quality, or performance to a product where no viable substitutes are currently available. VF deems such chemicals 'restricted' when (upon review) there is sufficient evidence that usage is carefully controlled, is compliant with all applicable regulations and the VF RSL, and does not pose any significant risk to humans or the environment during the product lifecycle.