

LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

Steps to develop substitution case studies

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Levi Strauss & Co. is deeply committed to minimizing the environmental impacts of our clothing manufacturing processes. Levi Strauss & Co. supports the goal of eliminating the industrial releases of hazardous chemicals into the environment, as reflected in the [Joint Roadmap Toward Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals](#).

In line with the Joint Roadmap and the precautionary principle, Levi Strauss & Co. is committed to the goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals for all its products across all pathways of release in our supply chains by 2020.

To achieve this ambitious goal, Levi Strauss & Co. supports initiatives to spread industry best practice and raise awareness within the apparel and chemical industries of safer substitutions for hazardous chemicals used in the apparel industry. We will work to ensure substitution case studies are posted on the [Subsport](#), a database of resources for safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals. Levi Strauss & Co. will take the following actions to achieve this.

1. **Identify the chemical of concern.** We will describe hazards, the function of the substance, and the current conditions to make it work at the desired performance level.
2. **Set substitution criteria.** Through our Restricted Substances List (RSL) process, we have set criteria to eliminate alternatives that are not safer. We also align with the regulatory and legal environment of the countries in which we operate and sell.
3. **Identify alternatives from chemical suppliers.** We are engaging with chemical suppliers in dialogue about chemical sustainability, hazard, risk and exposure, and will work with them to find safer alternatives for chemicals of concern.
4. **Assess and compare alternatives.** We will ask chemical supplier to share what hazard assessment methodology and tool they used to identify the safer substitution.
5. **Pilot substitution for performance.** We will then evaluate the chemical through our processes to ensure the performance meets consumer expectations.
6. **Encourage chemical supplier to post substitution case study.** After third-party verification, we will encourage the chemical supplier or other organization to post a substitution case study on the Subsport, which outlines the research and analysis performed in the steps above.

For more information on Levi Strauss & Co.'s work on chemical sustainability, please visit <http://www.levistrauss.com/sustainability/planet/chemicals>.