



Be a Chemical Footprint Project Responder Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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1. What is the Chemical Footprint Project?

The Chemical Footprint Project is a new initiative for measuring corporate progress to safer chemicals. It provides a metric for benchmarking companies as they select safer alternatives and reduce their use of chemicals of high concern.

As a primary goal of the Project is to recognize corporate leadership, the CFP will publically profile top performers. The results will provide valuable data to investors, retailers, and other organizations seeking to identify companies that use best practices in chemicals management.

Any company can use the Assessment Tool to benchmark its chemicals management program, understand its progress over time, and track its position relative to other firms. It is designed as a tool to measure continuous improvement in chemicals management.

2. What is the Chemical Footprint Project Assessment Tool?

The Assessment Tool is comprised of 20 questions that measure company performance in managing chemicals beyond regulatory compliance in four areas:

- Management Strategy
- Chemical Inventory
- Footprint Measurement
- Public Disclosure and Verification

Management Strategy evaluates the scope of corporate chemical policies and their integration into business strategy, accountability, and employee incentives for safer chemical use. Management Strategy also evaluates the organization's support of initiatives and public policies for safer chemicals.

Chemical Inventory evaluates a company's level of knowledge about the chemicals in its products, as well as its systems for managing chemical data and ensuring supplier compliance with the company's reporting requirements.

Footprint Measurement evaluates whether a company sets goals to reduce chemicals of high concern, establishes a baseline Chemical Footprint and measures progress towards meeting goals, and whether chemical hazards and safer alternatives are assessed, identified, and implemented.

Public Disclosure and Verification evaluates whether a company publicly shares information on the chemicals in its products beyond legal requirements, discloses participation in the Chemical Footprint Project and its answers to the Assessment Tool questions, and whether its answers are independently verified by a third party.

3. What are the benefits of being a Responder to the Chemical Footprint Project?

Responders receive the following benefits:

- Access to a system for evaluating, measuring, and communicating corporate chemical management performance.
- Access to a Toolkit for tracking progress, benchmarking performance, and setting goals for improvement.
- Opportunity to gain overall internal alignment in development and implementation of chemical management policies and practices.
- Opportunity to receive recognition for leadership in corporate chemicals management and reducing chemicals of concern.
- Opportunity for business growth based on third party recognition of organization-wide performance.

4. How does a company apply to be a Responder to the Chemical Footprint Project?

You can apply to participate at: <https://www.chemicalfootprint.org/assess/assessment-tool>. Responders will answer the 20 questions that comprise the Assessment Tool to measure their overall chemical management performance.

Only companies that purchase final products or components of products (for example, brands) or have manufacturing facilities will be approved to use the online tool. This includes (but is not limited to) manufacturers, brands, or suppliers of: apparel/footwear, automobiles/automotive parts, building products, consumer packaged goods (including household and personal care products), electronics, medical devices, and textiles.

5. How long will it take a Responder to answer the questions in the CFP Assessment Tool?

The time to answer the questions will depend on the existing systems a company has in place to manage chemicals in products and supply chains beyond regulatory compliance. Companies with comprehensive systems in place will be able to more rapidly answer the questions than those that have data in silos spread across the organization. In the first year of participation companies may not have the data in-hand to answer all 20 questions. The Assessment Tool is designed as a continuous improvement tool. Year one data will provide a base level of performance for a company.

6. What happens if I do not complete the questions in the Chemical Footprint Project Assessment Tool?

Once a responder has been approved to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project, he/she will have a log-in name and password. You can log in and answer a subset or all of the questions. As long as you save your answers, you can return to the questionnaire and complete it at a later date.

7. What is the cost of participating in the Chemical Footprint Project?

There is no cost to a Responder to participate in the Chemical Footprint Project .

8. What does the Chemical Footprint Project do with a Responder's answers in the Assessment Tool?

The Assessment Tool allocates a total of 100 points across 20 questions. Question-specific scores are added to give a company a total score. The response data from participants will be anonymized, collated, and analyzed.

The Chemical Footprint Project will release an annual report to publicly recognize companies that show leadership in chemicals management overall, in each of the four chemicals management areas, and within an industry sector.

9. Can I choose whether to make our company score public and whether to share it with our customers? Will I have a chance to review my company's score?

Responders can decide whether to make company answers and score publicly available, including whether to:

- have company answers and score posted publicly on the CFP website;
- share results with selected companies or purchasers only;
- list company name (but not data) publicly as having participated in the CFP; or
- remain anonymous about your company's participation.

The Chemical Footprint Project will review and verify each question answered. Responders will have the opportunity to provide additional documentation for answers that have not been verified.

10. How does the Chemical Footprint Project ensure the accuracy of a Responder's answers?

The Chemical Footprint Project will review answers based on: consistency with documentation provided, comparisons with similar companies, and a review of publicly available data. Although third party verification is not a requirement for participation, Responders receive additional points if their answers are independently validated.

11. How does the Chemical Footprint Project relate to other tools such as the Health Product Declaration, SIN List, and GreenScreen®?

Many tools have been developed to assist companies with identifying chemicals in products, assessing the hazards and risks of those chemicals, and determining safer alternatives. Some examples of these tools include the Health Product Declaration, GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals, Pharos, the SIN List, and the SciVera Lens. The CFP does not specify or recommend any tool or database for use in implementing a robust corporate chemical management program. Rather, tool and database selection are left to the discretion of each company. These tools can help prepare firms to participate in the CFP.

12. How does the Chemical Footprint Project relate to REACH and RoHS?

The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and of Chemicals (REACH) is a European chemicals management regulation. It came into force in June 2007 and replaced a number of European Directives and Regulations with a single system. The European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Chemicals in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Directive restricts (with exceptions) the use of six hazardous materials in the manufacture of various types of electronic and electrical equipment.

The CFP does not assess companies on their regulatory compliance. Rather it assesses companies on their performance beyond regulatory requirements. Specifically the Assessment Tool assesses companies on Management Strategy, Chemical Inventory, Footprint Measurement, and Public Disclosure and Verification.

13. How does the Chemical Footprint Project relate to Alternatives Assessment?

Alternatives assessment is a process for identifying, comparing, and selecting safer alternatives to chemicals of concern (including those in materials, processes, or technologies) on the basis of their hazards, performance, and economic viability. A number of tools and methods have been developed for assessing alternatives to chemicals of concern (see: <http://www.oecdsatoolbox.org/>). Responders to the Chemical Footprint Project may use the methods and tools of alternatives assessment to identify and select safer chemicals for use in manufacturing, products, and packaging.