Walmart’s Sustainable Chemistry Commitment

Walmart’s Sustainable Chemistry Commitment encourages suppliers to incorporate Sustainable Chemistry principles into the development of their products that we source and sell. Walmart is both a Signatory and a Responder to the Chemical Footprint Project, becoming the first retailer to set a chemical footprint reduction goal and report progress through the 2017 CFP Survey. Participation in the Chemical Footprint Project helps to publicly communicate our company’s commitment to and progress towards sustainable chemistry.

Increasing chemical ingredient transparency

Since 2013, Walmart has encouraged full ingredient transparency. Toward that end, Walmart encourages all suppliers to provide full online public ingredient disclosure for formulated consumable items sold at Walmart U.S. and Sam’s Club U.S. stores. Consumables include products like household cleaners, cosmetics and skincare items, and infant products, among others. Walmart encourages suppliers to disclose ingredients online in a manner that is easily accessible from the supplier’s website and can be displayed at the product level.

Measuring our chemical footprint

As part of its commitment, in 2017, Walmart became the first U.S. retailer to announce a time-bound chemical reduction goal: “by 2022, we aim to reduce our footprint of “priority chemicals” in formulated consumables by 10%” compared to our 2017 baseline of 215.9 million pounds. In 2018, there were more than 125,000 formulated consumable items in scope sold by Walmart stores and Sam’s Clubs in the U.S. in the following categories: personal care, beauty, baby, pet, and household cleaning products.

To track and disclose progress toward its reduction goals, Walmart asks suppliers to share their formulations for each in-scope Universal Product Code (UPC) with UL WERCSmart. In 2018, suppliers provided product formulations to UL WERCSmart for 85% of in-scope UPCs; 66% of total in-scope UPCs contained priority chemicals. UL WERCSmart aggregates the information and calculates Walmart’s chemical footprint.

In 2018, based on supplier reports collected through UL WERCSmart, Walmart’s priority chemical footprint (weight in pounds) increased by 1% over 2017, while the weight of priority chemicals as a proportion of total product formulation weight declined by five basis points.

Why we do this work

Walmart’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Doug McMillon, said it best: “It’s time for businesses to take the lead working together and with government and NGOs on serious issues like workforce opportunity, racial equity, climate, and sustainable, responsible supply chains. Consumers are keeping score. They no longer look the other way, and we are committed to do right by our communities. Together, we have an opportunity to shape the future at a pivotal moment. And the biggest outcome for thinking and behaving this way is that it results in a better performing business that benefits all of our stakeholders.”