



CHAPTER 6

Conclusions & Next Steps

Companies have many pathways to improve their performance in managing chemicals, reducing chemical risks, and capturing new market opportunities.

Authentic success requires investing in systems to address all four key performance categories of Management Strategy, Chemical Inventory, Footprint Measurement, and Disclosure & Verification. The firms that participated in the 2015 Chemical Footprint Project survey are front-runners in chemicals management. With comparative data on performance and a clear set of improvement options identified, these pioneering companies are prepared to better manage their chemical risks and achieve the reputational and market benefits that come with improved chemicals management.

Our analysis reveals that many companies begin their efforts to systematically manage chemicals in their supply chains and products by creating an RSL and working with suppliers to ensure that these chemicals are not in products. Following this first step, many companies recognize that this action is not sufficient and work to become much more proactive in chemicals management. They may create a beyond legally restricted substance list that includes CoHCs not yet regulated, build a system to manage chemicals data, create a corporate chemicals policy and work to integrate it into their company's business strategy, set goals for reducing the use of CoHCs, develop an approach for evaluating safer alternatives, and begin to publicly disclose information about chemicals in their products beyond what is legally required.

Specific opportunities for improvement include:

- **Establishing comprehensive chemicals policies.** The survey found that most companies do not have comprehensive corporate

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chemical policies—they focus primarily on chemical in products rather than on manufacturing, supply chains, and packaging.

- **Engaging senior management and/or boards of directors.** Companies with engaged senior management and/or board of directors scored better than average.
- **Anticipating future regulations** with lists of beyond legally restricted substances.
- **Knowing chemicals in products**, because this is foundational to measuring chemical footprints, anticipating future regulations, and avoiding redesign risks.
- **Learning from companies with “Design for Health” strategies**, which drive the leading edge by integrating safer and healthier chemicals into all elements of their business practice.
- **Measuring the chemical footprint of products** to establish a baseline data point for CoHC use by the company.
- **Increasing transparency.** The survey found that companies are much more active in chemicals management than they reveal publicly. Increasing transparency on chemicals management reduces exposure to reputation risks.



The Chemical Footprint Project survey is conducted annually. In 2016, we will work with the Chemical Footprint Project Signatories and reach out to additional brands and manufacturers to participate in the survey.

Chemical footprinting incentivizes corporate behavior to a future in which there is a high level of business awareness, attention, and action on

hazardous chemicals commensurate with their health and environmental impacts. With increased accountability, comparability, and transparency for chemicals management, companies will shift strategy from a focus on mitigating chemical risks to developing new markets for safer and healthier products that benefit people, the environment, and the economy.



Join us!

The Chemical Footprint Project welcomes Signatories and Responders.

Signatories are investors and institutional purchasers who outreach to companies to participate in the survey. Responders are brands, manufacturers, and suppliers who participate in the annual Chemical Footprint Project survey.

www.chemicalfootprint.org