

## THE CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT

# Measuring Corporate Progress to Safer Chemicals



### 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.

The Chemical Footprint Project is the first initiative to measure overall corporate chemicals management performance by evaluating:

- Management Strategy
- Chemical Inventory
- Progress Measurement
- Public Disclosure

**“CFP greatly simplifies the complex issue of chemicals management. We now have a tool that is available for plugging into purchasing decisions.”**

—Monica Nakielski, Partners HealthCare

### What is the mission of the Chemical Footprint Project?

The mission of the Chemical Footprint Project is to transform global chemical use by measuring and disclosing data on business progress to safer chemicals.

### What need does the Chemical Footprint Project meet?

Increasingly, purchasers and investors want to know how well companies manage chemicals in products and supply chains. Are companies using chemicals of high concern to human health or the environment in products or manufacturing? Are they using safer alternatives? What actions are companies taking to systematically reduce chemicals of greatest concern and to use safer alternatives? How can companies that systematically use safer alternatives be identified and rewarded?

The lack of an independent, third party metric for publicly benchmarking corporate progress in reducing chemicals of high concern makes it difficult for investors and purchasers to identify and reward good performance and makes it difficult for companies to demonstrate superior performance. Furthermore,

the lack of a common metric means that companies seeking to improve their performance lack a clear way to measure performance and identify their most significant improvement opportunities.

The CFP aims to meet this need. For *investors*, it supplies a key piece of information that has been missing in evaluating corporate sustainability. For *retailers*, it provides a credible, third party approach for driving chemicals management into the value chain. For *brands*, it provides a means for assessing chemicals management and benchmarking progress as well as an opportunity to be recognized as a leader. For *purchasers*, it will help to identify chemical management leaders in specific product categories of interest. For *the public*, it will mean that chemicals of high concern are reduced in consumer products, leading to lower exposures and improved health outcomes.

### How does the Chemical Footprint Project work?

Companies can participate in the Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) by registering and logging in to the secure Chemical Footprint Project web site to access and complete the CFP Assessment Tool.

The CFP Assessment Tool allocates a total of 100 points across 19 questions. Question-specific scores are added to give a company a total score. The response data from all participants will be anonymized, collated and analyzed.

Respondents can choose whether to publicly share their participation in the CFP and can also choose whether to share the data they provide. Although third party verification is not a requirement for participation, respondents receive additional points if data are independently validated.

As the goal of the Chemical Footprint Project is to identify and promote leadership, the CFP will publicly profile top performers. The results will provide valuable data to investors,

**Hazardous chemicals “present reputational, regulatory, and reformulation risks across a broad range of industry sectors. Investors need to understand how companies are meaningfully managing these risks.”**

—Susan Baker, Trillium Asset Management, LLC

retailers and other organizations seeking to understand best practices in chemicals management. In addition, CFP participants can share their results with their own customers and investors who are seeking to source products from companies that are leaders in using safer chemicals.

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

**“CFP is a market differentiator and provides a competitive advantage for business leaders. This new tool will add a level of transparency and help companies mitigate reputational and regulatory risks and exploit opportunities afforded by moving to safer chemicals.”**

—Roger McFadden, Staples, Inc.

### Who can use the CFP Assessment Tool?

Similar to carbon footprinting, chemical footprinting can apply to any business sector.

The launch of the Chemical Footprint Project will focus on business sectors that are currently active in managing chemicals in products and supply chains, including the automotive, building products, consumer packaged goods, medical devices, electronics, and the apparel/footwear/outdoor industry sectors.

### What is the scope of the CFP?

The Chemical Footprint Project focuses on two domains of chemicals management: chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) in products sold by a company and CoHCs used in a company's operations that do not end up in a product (for sites where a company has operational control).

### How is Chemical Footprint defined?

The CFP defines Chemical Footprint as the total mass of chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) in products sold by a company and used in its manufacturing operations.

Chemical footprinting is the process of assessing progress toward the use of safer chemicals and away from chemicals of high concern to human health or the environment. A chemical footprint can be used as a benchmark to document the actions an organization takes to advance the use of safer chemicals in its products and manufacturing operations.

### How are Chemicals of High Concern (CoHCs) defined?

For the purposes of this project, the CFP is using the California Candidate Chemicals (<https://dts.c.ca.gov/SCP/ChemList.cfm>) list to determine CoHCs. Note that the Candidate List includes chemicals and chemical groups that are contained in separate spreadsheets at this site.

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*The Chemical Footprint Project was founded by Clean Production Action, the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Pure Strategies. Clean Production Action administers the project. The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production and Pure Strategies provide strategic and technical guidance.*

**Clean Production Action** is an environmental organization that advances safer alternatives to toxic chemicals through its GreenScreen® and BizNGO programs. BizNGO is a unique collaboration of businesses and NGOs working together to promote safer chemicals and drive innovation into and across supply chains and government regulations.  
[www.cleanproduction.org](http://www.cleanproduction.org)



**The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production** is a research institute that works collaboratively with citizens, workers, businesses, and governments to create healthy work environments, viable businesses, and thriving communities that support sustainable production and consumption.  
[www.sustainableproduction.org](http://www.sustainableproduction.org)



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