

MESSAGE

Appendix 4: Chemical Requirements

The REACH chemical restrictions describe limitation and prohibition of substances in products produced for European market.

The listed values and additional notes are applicable to all suppliers manufacturing or providing products for MESSAGE A/S.

We request that you familiarize yourself with the regulation: [Substances restricted under REACH - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](#), and ensure that you are always fully updated on the requirements of REACH.

The REACH applies to and cover all garments, accessories, and other products of value. This includes every type of supplement such as zippers, buttons, rivets, and labels.

It is the responsibility of the supplier to ensure that the articles and goods, which are supplied, meet all requirements.

The responsibility should also cover and must be fully communicated and controlled by all sub-contractors and suppliers of raw materials and other components.

Suppliers must be familiar and comply with all legislation, product requirements and manufacturing requirements, where they are producing, and these include all environmental laws as well.

Forbidden or limited chemicals

Please note, suppliers must never utilise chemicals listed on the candidate list for any garments, accessories, and other products of value to MESSAGE A/S:

- The “substances of very high concern” (SVHC) i.e. the [European Union REACH Regulation \(EC\) no.1907/2006 Candidate List](#) and are requested to check the list on a regular basis as this list is currently being updated.

Please note that chemicals listed in the REACH annex XVII are limited/restricted substances, and must be complied to any garments, accessories, and other products of value to MESSAGE A/S:

- The [European Union REACH Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006 Annex XVII](#) and later amendments.

In addition, it is expected that all suppliers must observe and comply with all legislation and product requirements from EU countries and other relevant countries of exports.

MESSAGE A/S' CSR Department also requires having finished garments from bulk production tested in order to complete an audit. MESSAGE A/S will make the request in time to complete the test prior to hand-over of the order. MESSAGE A/S' nominated testing agency is: TÜV Rheinland.

Costing

For all tests required by MESSAGE A/S' CSR Department, the costing shall be covered as follows:

- If all tests on the garment are stated with a “PASS” result, MESSAGE A/S will cover the cost of the test.

- If any test made on the garment is stated with a “FAIL”, the supplier is held responsible to cover the cost of the entire test.

Moreover, the supplier is held responsible to cover all expenses necessary to rectify the production in order to remove the chemical(s) present in the garment.

MESSAGE A/S reserves the right to demand reimbursement from the supplier should a failed test result in loss of turnover, either due to delay, inadequate commodities, legal requirements, or any other reason for loss of turnover.

Additionally, the supplier must compensate for the potential air shipping of the goods.

Additional requirements and restrictions

- Odour and strong smells from garments can occur through possible unauthorized chemical content, bad practice in washing or drying process prior to shipment. MESSAGE A/S expects garments to have a “product specific smell”, and “non-product” specific odour will be treated as a quality issue, even if the garment is meeting the RSL, and claims will be made to the supplier.
- Gassing, fumigating, or spraying cargo or containers with any chemicals is banned, and levels of chemicals may be measured at the port of destination. Regardless of the source, all costs in connection with cleaning containers, damage or loss of products, claims may be directed to the supplier.

Testing and control

- Suppliers must assume responsibility in ensuring that the production value chain are informed continuously about MESSAGE A/S requirements – and that all materials coming into the factory meets the standards.
- MESSAGE A/S will request chemical tests on products and further has a random check program in-house, to make sure that all products and components comply with our requirements and abide with the legislation.
- MESSAGE A/S recommend testing according to AFIRM guidelines Table 4. AFIRM RSL Testing Matrix on page 13-14, in order to secure testing of materials for relevant substances according to REACH: [AFIRM RSL 2023](#)

All suppliers must sign and meet the above requirements, as this is non-negotiable as part of the co-operation with MESSAGE A/S' Code of Conduct.