

Tübingen, April 2018

CHT leading in sustainable product classification | More than 750 chemical products published in the ZDHC Gateway

In the past months the CHT Group applied major efforts into the administration of its ZDHC Gateway™ profile. This data exchange platform supports sustainable manufacturing by enabling chemical formulators to securely share information with value-chain affiliates. Chemical companies, brands and suppliers of textiles, footwear or leather eminently benefit from the available data in-line with the ZDHC standards.

Any product uploaded in the ZDHC Gateway has to include a statement according to the compliance with the ZDHC MRSL requirements. The levels 0 to 3 give information on the validity of the conformance with the ZDHC MRSL, which has level 3 as the highest level.

CHT Group claims a leading position regarding the amount of registered chemical products at the ZDHC Gateway for textile applications, as being amongst the top 3 chemical companies which have submitted the highest number of products to the ZDHC Gateway. CHT Group has already uploaded more than 750 chemicals for textile application. Moreover, CHT has a very high number of level 3 rated products in ZDHC Gateway (approx. 78%).

"We are very proud of our team effort," states Andreas Bayer, Head of Product Safety at CHT Germany GmbH and worldwide responsible for product safety within CHT Group. "This was only possible due to collective efforts between the colleagues in Development, Business Field Textile and Product Safety," he adds. This achievement was also a joint effort together with bluesign®. Without the bluesign® approval of such a high number of products, CHT couldn't have outreached the 78 % for level 3 in ZDHC Gateway. Just recently ZDHC and bluesign® published their collaboration for effectively phasing out hazardous substances from global supply chains of the textile, apparel, leather and footwear industry. Simultaneously bluesign® was established as first level 3 certifier of ZDHC MRLS Conformance in the ZDHC Gateway. Chemical products published in the bluesign® bluefinder will be recognised at level 3 in the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module. Since CHT has still several products in the homologation process at bluesign®, the number of level 3 products for CHT Group in the ZDHC Gateway will further increase. Additionally CHT is planning to submit more bluesign® or by other third party evaluated products to the ZDHC Gateway.

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Eric Knehr, Head of global Brand & Retail Service of Business Field Textile, says, "The high number of approved and top graded CHT products in the ZDHC Gateway is underlining our strong commitment to sustainability". He remarks, "With this significant validated step, as innovative and highly customer-focussed chemical company, we have contributed and still want to contribute to a more sustainable textile and garment production along the value chain. Sustainability is ever since the fundament of the CHT Group. It complies with our culture and our self-perception as a globally acting company."

As a foundation-owned company rooted in tradition, the CHT Group has been observing sustainability aspects for a very long time. As chemical company, CHT focuses on the sustainable development of its product range besides the social responsibilities and its economical reliability. All this now led to such a high number of level 3 products in the ZDHC Gateway.

CHT has supported the ZDHC Initiative from the very beginning. From the foundation of ZDHC CHT has actively worked in the former Technical Advisory Committee of the chemical industry (TAC) together with ZDHC and its signatory brands. "We see our engagement in the ZDHC Gateway as our continued support to ZDHC Foundation as well as for brands and retailers aiming for better chemical management within the textile supply chain," concludes Andreas Bayer.

The information on CHT products and all contents are now available for manufacturers, brands and retailers after signing in on www.roadmaptozero.com/gateway

About ZDHC Foundation

In 2011, a group of major apparel, leather, and footwear brands and retailers made a shared commitment to reduce or substitute hazardous chemicals from their value chain to ensure a safer handling of chemicals. This was the origin of the ZDHC Initiative.

In the meantime, the ZDHC Initiative and programme have gone through a transformation to Stichting ZDHC Foundation© based in Amsterdam which has been registered in the Netherlands since the beginning of 2015.

The ZDHC Programme currently includes a collaboration of 24 signatory brands, 53 value chain affiliates, and 15 associates. Together, they are working to support the implementation of safer chemical management practices. The ZDHC Programme focuses on chemical management (e.g. via the MRSL & Conformance Guidance), Wastewater Quality, Audit Protocol and Research on these topics. Within that focus the ZDHC MRSL (Manufacturing Restricted Substance List) plays a key role in the implementation of safer chemical management.

The MRSL is a list of chemical substances banned from intentional use in facilities that process textile materials and trim parts in apparel, leather and footwear. It establishes acceptable concentration limits for these substances as impurities or by-products in chemical formulations used within manufacturing facilities. The ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module is the first compatible online ZDHC data exchange platform.

About the CHT Group

The CHT Group, a medium-sized global player and “hidden champion” for special chemicals is active worldwide in development, production and sales.

CHT Germany GmbH in Tübingen is the headquarters of the company group.

The products improve the quality, the functionality and the performance of textiles, building materials, colours, coatings, paper and agricultural chemicals as well as cleaning and care products in the field of consumer goods industry.

By bundling the strengths of the entire Group, innovative products, applications or processes are constantly being developed.

Highly qualified specialists work in top-equipped laboratories for development, analysis and application technology in order to work out ideas and solutions that meet the most modern requirements.

The CHT Group with its own production and sales locations is represented by more than 29 companies worldwide. In the financial year 2017, the CHT Group generated a group turnover of 440 million Euro with 2,200 employees.

For more information please visit us at www.cht.com

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