

# Marc O'Polo

EST. IN STOCKHOLM

## **MARC O'POLO COMMITMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT**

**2025**

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## 1. FRAMEWORK, STANDARDS AND GOALS

Hazardous chemicals from the cultivation and processing of raw materials and textile finishing processes are one of the major causes of water, soil, and air pollution. More than 350,000 chemicals are used worldwide every year - 30% of them in the textile, footwear & accessory industries. These substances not only have negative impacts on the environment by damaging ecosystems and water systems and contributing to climate change, but they also pose risks to human health. They can affect the well-being of the local population and workers involved in manufacturing processes, and furthermore, they can negatively impact the health of our customers as toxic residues in products.

### 1.1 CORE VALUES AND GOALS

At Marc O'Polo, we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the environment by implementing sustainable practices throughout our supply chain. This commitment for a sustainable chemical management defines our strategy to reduce pollution and manage risks associated with hazardous chemicals as well as to comply with applicable laws and regulations. It is aligned with and contributes to the ZDHC 2030 Impact Strategy, aiming for 100% of chemical formulations used within the ZDHC Community to comply with the ZDHC MRSL.

#### 2030 GOAL

Our goal is to driving our global supply chains to attain the highest standards of sustainable chemical management by 2030.

Our goal is to driving our global supply chains to attain the highest standards of sustainable chemical management by 2030. This comprises the elimination of chemicals of high and very high concern, establishing a robust chemical management system, safeguarding of proper wastewater treatment, while maintaining the highest standards for product safety.

### 1.2 STANDARDS & ORGANIZATIONS

Our dedication to sustainable chemical and wastewater management is driven by adherence to applicable legislation, membership requirements and alignment with standards and tools set by the following organizations:



#### ZDHC

ZDHC is an association of international companies and organizations. As a signatory of the ZDHC, our commitment to sustainable chemical management is based on the ZDHC's Roadmap to Zero Program. This leads the textile, apparel and footwear industry to eliminate harmful chemicals from their global supply chains, building the foundation for more sustainable manufacturing to protect workers, consumers and our planet's ecosystems. For more information, visit <https://www.roadmaptozero.com/>



### LEATHER WORKING GROUP (LWG)

Leather Working Group is a not-for-profit multi-stakeholder organisation committed to reducing the environmental impact of leather manufacturing. It sets the LWG Standards of environmental criteria against which leather manufacturers are independently audited and certified. For more information visit <https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com/>

## 1.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

This Chemical Commitment also acknowledges the essential value of partnerships and collaboration in driving positive change. Working closely with our Supply Chain Partners we are committed to supporting and continuously qualifying them in the implementation of the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Program for improved environmental practices.

## 1.4 HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

### TERMS

The following verbs are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, or capabilities in this document: “**shall**” indicates a mandatory requirement and underpins our commitment, “**should**” indicates a recommendation, “**may**” indicates a permission, “**can**” indicates a possibility.

### DEFINITIONS

The following definitions for business partners in the Marc O’Polo supply chains are provided to clarify key terms used in this document:

**Supply Chain Partners** refer to various entities in the Marc O’Polo supply chain involved in the production and processing of textile, apparel, footwear and accessory products.

**Suppliers** are Supply Chain Partners, selling products to Marc O’Polo which may or may not have production at their locations.

**Wet Processing Suppliers** refers to textile, apparel, footwear and accessory Supply Chain Partners contributing processes in the Marc O’Polo supply chain using water as a fluid that contacts the product being manufactured and/or chemicals. For example, dyeing, washing, finishing, printing or tanning, moulding, footwear assembling with glueing, painting, etc. Non-contact, closed-loop boiler or cooling water are not considered as wet processes.

## 2. SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 SUPPLY CHAIN DISCLOSURE

Transparency is the foundation for identifying and counteracting environmental risks. The graphic below illustrates the classification into ‘Tiers’ of our supply chain according to Marc O’Polo’s definition, allowing us to derive tailored strategies for the engagement, implementation, and monitoring of each supplier group.

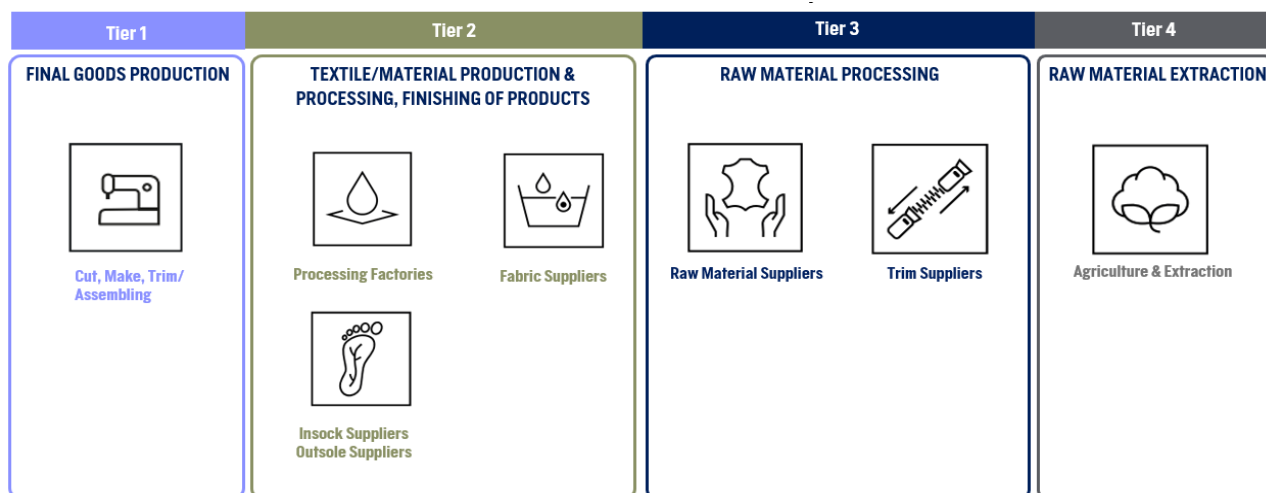


FIGURE 1 DEFINITION OF TIERS-MARC O'POLO

At the present time we mandate our Suppliers to disclose at the minimum all their T1 & T2 Supply Chain Partners involved in manufacturing the Marc O'Polo products' main components<sup>1</sup> and if required, to disclose Supply Chain Partners beyond T2 (e.g. risk materials, tanneries, down supplier) as well. As part of our 2030 environmental sustainability strategy, we aim to achieve transparency up to T4 and are continuously striving towards this goal.

To showcase our contribution to transparency and commitment to responsible sourcing, we are publicly disclosing our Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope on the [Detox Live](#) platform illustrating their impact on a global level.

### 2.1.1 SCOPE OF APPLICABILITY

Our commitment for a sustainable chemical management includes all Marc O'Polo brands and divisions - the main collections Marc O'Polo Modern Casual and Marc O'Polo Denim (MOPD) - as well as Marc O'Polo Shoes & Marc O'Polo Accessories. We also mandate our licensees for Bodywear, Beachwear, Home, and Junior to oblige their global supply chains to attain the highest standards of sustainable chemical management by 2030. As a result, Marc O'Polo Supply Chain Partners as well as those of our licensees shall commit to and actively work towards the implementation of ZDHC's Roadmap to Zero Program.

### 2.1.2 SCOPE OF MONITORING

The Marc O'Polo monitoring is relevant to Strategic and Core Tier 1 and Tier 2 Wet Processing Suppliers involved in the manufacturing of Marc O'Polo apparel, footwear and accessory products and its main components<sup>1</sup>. Tier 3 Wet Processing Suppliers such as tanneries and down suppliers as well as others suppliers (e.g. from risk materials) are also monitored by Marc O'Polo if required. These Supply Chain Partners shall regularly submit monitoring and reporting data to ensure compliance with our

<sup>1</sup> The term 'Main Components' refers to the main shell fabric/yarn/material of a product. To enhance and foster sustainable practices within our supply chain, Marc O'Polo will include further products components in future

environmental standards and the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Program. This group of Supply Chain Partners is referred hereafter as “**Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope**”.

### 3. OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

This section outlines the key elements, goals and expectations of our commitment to sustainable chemical management and product safety. As a general requirement all Marc O’Polo Supply Chain Partners and those of our licensees shall comply with applicable local and national laws and regulations.

Recognizing the need for systemic change in the industry, all Marc O’Polo Supply Chain Partners as well as those of our licensees shall commit to and actively work towards the implementation of ZDHC’s Roadmap to Zero Program (RtZ Programme). This focuses on implementing and adopting the Sustainable Chemical Management Framework in the textile, leather, apparel and footwear industry using ZDHC implementation and adoption tools.

The ZDHC Sustainable Chemical Management Framework serves as the core of ZDHC’s RtZ Programme. Grounded in the ZDHC MRSL, this framework promotes safer chemistry, cleaner water and improved air quality by adopting a holistic approach to sustainable chemical management across all manufacturing phases. It forms the basis of the Marc O’Polo Chemical & Environmental Management Program (EMP) which is organized around three focus areas:

- **Pillar 1 - Input Management:** Focuses on chemicals used in production processes of our Supply Chain Partners by eliminating the use of chemicals of concern and high concern through conformance to the ZDHC MRSL while promoting the use of more sustainable chemistry.
- **Pillar 2 - Process Management:** Enhances sustainable chemical management processes that support the implementation of chemical management best practices at wet processing suppliers.
- **Pillar 3 - Output Management:** Ensures wastewater treatment and discharge across our supply chain meet stringent global quality standards through measuring the discharge/emissions to the environment related to the ZDHC MRSL and to investigate corrective actions in input and process management for non-conformities.



FIGURE 2 - OUR APPROACH TO IMPROVE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 INPUT - IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE INPUT MANAGEMENT

To achieve this goal, all our Supply Chain Partners and those of our licensees shall implement the ZDHC MRSL and ensure it is adopted throughout their supply chains. We encourage them to invite their sub-suppliers and contractors to register for the ZDHC Gateway to facilitate upstream implementation. Moreover, all Wet Processing Suppliers shall register in the ZDHC Gateway and exclusively use ZDHC MRSL compliant chemicals in their manufacturing processes for our products, ensuring these chemicals are listed in the ZDHC Gateway.

They shall also establish a chemical procurement policy with clear goals for ZDHC MRSL compliant sourcing. Additionally, they shall maintain a digital chemical inventory and regularly report these and their usage via a third-party online platform. Furthermore, Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope shall provide Performance InCheck Reports which are frequently monitored by Marc O'Polo to ensure MRSL compliance.

#### OUR 2030 GOAL

100% of our Supply Chain Partners adopt the MRSL and 70% of our Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope achieve a MRSL conformance Level 3 by 2030.

### 3.2 PROCESS - PROCESS MANAGEMENT FOR A SAFER HANDLING OF CHEMICALS

A cornerstone for ensuring continuous improvement in the proper management of chemicals is the ZDHC Chemical Management System Framework (CMS) which provides guidelines for relevant personnel at Wet Processing Suppliers with regard to the implementation of the ZDHC CMS Framework and best practices.

#### 3.2.1 WET PROCESSING SUPPLIERS IN THE TEXTILE, FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES INDUSTRY

##### OUR 2030 GOAL

Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope achieve at the minimum Supplier to Zero Level 1 by 2030.

Our 2030 objective is that 100% of our Wet Processing Suppliers have appropriate processes and tools in place for safe handling of chemicals. Hence they shall adopt and abide by the ZDHC CMS and the ZDHC Technical Industry Guide (TIG).

Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope shall additionally register in the Supplier to Zero Platform, perform an annual assessment and obtain at the minimum Supplier to Zero Level 1. As part of a continuous improvement in the proper management

of chemicals we recommend our Wet Processing Suppliers to get the S2Z Progressive/Level 2 certificate. Supplier to Zero provides hands-on industry standards and best-practice guidance for the improvement of a proper management of chemicals and is an entry gate to the ZDHC Chemical Management System (CMS) Framework.

#### 3.2.2 TANNERIES

Tanneries that the leather for Marc O'Polo products derive from shall instead abide by the LWG standard and audit and receive at least a bronze overall rating to support more responsible leather

production and thus reduce the negative impact on the environment. By 2030, these tanneries shall also achieve a gold scoring in the chemical management section to ensure a safe handling of chemicals.

### 3.3 OUTPUT - MANAGING THE PROPER TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS

An estimated 20% of global water pollution is caused by inadequately treated wastewater from cultivation and manufacturing processes in the textile & apparel value chain.

The ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines are fundamental for ensuring proper treatment of effluent. They establish unified global expectations and criteria for sampling, testing, reporting, and monitoring of industrial wastewater and sludge resulting from wet processing.

To that end, all our Wet Processing Suppliers shall commit to the implementation of the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines and work towards compliance. They shall perform wastewater testing once a year and generate a ClearStream Report in the ZDHC Gateway for every wastewater testing cycle. By 2030, we aim to have 100% of our Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope achieve at the minimum the ZDHC Wastewater Foundational Level. i.e. they shall meet all reporting limits for ZDHC MRSL parameters and if applicable at a minimum wastewater Foundational Limits for all Heavy Metals, Conventional Parameters and Anions. In case of non-conformities in the ClearStream Report, they shall perform a Root Cause Analysis and upload a CAP in the ZDHC Gateway.

#### OUR 2030 GOAL

By 2030, 100% of our Wet Processing Suppliers in Scope achieve at the minimum the ZDHC Wastewater Foundational Level

## 4. OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD OUR PRODUCTS (PRODUCT SAFETY)

To prevent potential product defects that might impact the health and safety of our customers, we have established comprehensive standards and procedures to safeguard our products in the best possible way. These are anchored in our Product Restricted Substances List (PRSL) which was developed to reduce the presence of chemicals of concern and high concern in our final products. This list is designed in accordance with national and international legal regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances. Compliance with our PRSL is mandatory for all Supply Chain Partners of all brands & divisions, applies to all products, materials and packaging and is regularly updated by us. We monitor the conformity with our PRSL in extensive tests on the final product through independent, accredited laboratories.

## 5. OUR COMMITMENT TO MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN MMCF PRODUCTION

The production of regenerated cellulose fibers, known as man-made cellulose fibers (MMCF), can result in environmental impacts during upstream fiber manufacturing processes. Our strategy for sustainable chemical management therefore also addresses risks associated with MMCF production. To foster responsible practices in MMCF manufacturing, we are committed to the implementation of the ZDHC MMCF Guidelines, which sets requirements for the management of air emissions, wastewater,



and chemicals. As MMCF production occurs upstream in the supply chain and falls outside our direct scope, this commitment is implemented through engagement with our upstream Supply Chain Partners. We prefer sourcing MMCF fibers from producers that are aligned with the ZDHC MMCF Guidelines, including those listed as ZDHC-approved MMCF suppliers, where feasible, and monitor alignment through ZDHC participation status and certificates made available by MMCF producers on the ZDHC Gateway.

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