

G-STAR RAW

G-STAR ZERO DISCHARGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
PROGRESS REPORT 2014 on our Detox Commitment

December 2014



g-star.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

G-Star works actively to prevent the use of chemicals in our products or production processes that can have a harmful effect on health or the environment.

The basis of our Responsible Supply Chain policy is the G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct (CoC) that clarifies and elevates the expectations we have of suppliers we work with and lays down the minimum Social and Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) standards we expect each factory to meet. The CoC refers to the G-Star Restricted Substances List (RSL) as the basis for monitoring the use of chemicals in G-Star products.

In January 2012, G-Star committed to reach zero discharge of hazardous chemicals (ZDHC) from all our products and production processes by 2020. Following our commitment we published a first action plan in 2012 that included all measures necessary to integrate this commitment into our business activities and work towards this target.

Since cooperation across the entire industry is essential, G-Star also joined the ZDHC Group in January 2012 to collaboratively work with a large number of world leading brands towards ZDHC by 2020. The ZDHC Group has set specific actions and timelines to realise this shared commitment and to set the right standard of environmental performance for the global apparel and footwear industry. G-Star supports and puts effort in the group's activities to collectively find safe substitutions for hazardous chemicals used in the apparel industry and work towards ZDHC by 2020. More information can be found on the ZDHC Group's Joint Roadmap website: www.roadmaptozero.com.

In addition, early 2013 we became a system partner of bluesign technologies ag . We intend to implement their bluesign® standard. This is an independent standard that guarantees that products are free of hazardous chemicals.

By the end of January 2013 we reconfirmed our commitment by publically agreeing to the Greenpeace Detox Solution Commitment. In our 2014 Detox Strategy further steps towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals have been explained and going forward we have integrated our detox strategy in our overall Corporate Responsibility strategy towards 2020.

To transparently report on our progress towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals in 2020, by the end of each year we publish a progress report to show the progress made in line with our Detox Solution Commitment, our environmental strategy to reach zero discharge and ZDHC goals.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS ZDHC IN 2014

2.1 G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct

The G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct is a tool to ensure that G-Star products are made under fair and safe circumstances. The Code outlines the minimum social and environmental standards we expect each factory to meet and gives guidelines thereto.

Progress in 2014 and next steps in 2015

- An update of the G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct (CoC) has been published end of June 2014 after communicating this to all our suppliers in May. In the update of the CoC both the social and environmental standards have been strengthened. The focus in the environmental section is on aligning with the ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol. This protocol is a best practice protocol developed by the ZDHC group that covers Environmental Management Systems, Permits, Health & Safety, Resource use, Chemical Management and Emissions. In the Chemical Management section a variety of topics going from awareness raising, training, documentation management and permits to risk assessment, performance goal setting, procurement of chemicals, monitoring of chemicals and chemical management systems are audited. Another update of our CoC is expected by the end of 2015 to include the lessons learned from our environmental audits and MRSL implementation.
- During 2014 the factories of our first tier suppliers and their subcontractors were audited by independent 3rd party auditors against our CoC. The results will be published in 2015 in the MADE-BY Scorecard 2014. The [results over 2013](#) are published in June 2014 by MADE-BY.
- During 2013 we started environmental auditing (77% of our production volume) and training (63% of our production volume) at our suppliers. In cooperation with the ZDHC group, G-Star has conducted pilot audits with the first version of the ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol in Bangladesh and China. Based on the results of these audits, action plans were developed with the suppliers to work on their environmental compliance. The suppliers have taken all necessary actions after they received additional training on the gaps in knowledge and issues found.
- In January 2014 the biggest Chinese supplier of G-Star has taken part in the ZDHC Pilot Chemical Management training. The training functions as a supporting tool for the ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol and will be rolled out in China and other production countries throughout the year. In 2014 a new version of the ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol was developed. Based on the findings of version 1.0, version 2.0 is a more efficient tool to be used both as a self-assessment and as an audit tool. G-Star has been actively involved in the development of this protocol.
- Early 2014 after finalizing our piloting as explained above, four different environmental audit standards were selected to conduct our environmental audits against our Code of Conduct. These are the SMETA 4 pillar audit, the WaterPaCT assessments, the Bluesign assessments within the Bluesign programme and the jointly developed ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol. These standards are used to perform environmental audits in our supply chain as of 2014.
- In 2014 G-Star continued to conduct environmental audits with the ZDHC Generic Environmental Audit Protocol in Bangladesh and China. The version 1.0 was used to environmentally audit our suppliers which represent 30.4% of our production volume. Another 18% of our production volume was audited via the SMETA 4 pillar audit, 13% via Bluesign assessments and 15.6% of the production volume was covered via the WaterPaCT assessments.
- This year G-Star has also provided suppliers in China, Vietnam, Turkey and Bangladesh with Nimkartek chemical training. This was an online training on the general aspects of the Restricted Substances List and gave an overview of restricted chemicals and evaluation. This training will be continued in 2015 within our supply chain.

2.2 Restricted Substances List

The basis for monitoring the use of chemicals in G-Star products is the G-Star Restricted Substances List (RSL). This list follows international laws and regulations, is public and updated frequently. Our textile engineers and chemical specialists work together with suppliers on proper use of chemicals and compliance with the RSL. To check compliance of our products with the RSL, we perform risk assessments, auditing and testing of our products.

The set-up of the product testing programme will be maintained in the upcoming years. On a seasonal basis and following our risk assessment, G-Star requests to receive three samples that are first out of production for

chemical and physical testing. Suppliers are requested to send the G-Star RSL team only A-choice pieces and to strictly follow the procedures to avoid delay in shipments. Upon receipt the RSL team inspects the garments and sends the pieces to an accredited laboratory in Europe for testing. All orders that are subject to testing can only be shipped after positive test results and approval of the RSL team. When new potential suppliers come in sight, the RSL team requests them to deliver fabrics for testing prior to starting production with the supplier. Testing fabric prior to production can diminish product testing failures significantly.

As from January 2009 we also started to conduct screening of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) linked to the REACH legislation. This legislation is now an integral part of our RSL.

Progress

In line with our commitment to the public's 'right to know', the RSL is public and is updated on a regular basis, at least once a year. In 2014 the list has been updated and extended. The new version was published in November 2014. When an update is done, our textile engineers and chemical specialists guide and train our suppliers to clarify the changes made in the updated RSL and the possible implications it has for production of garments. In 2014 our RSL team visited our key suppliers to discuss the RSL update and testing methods and to give tailor made advice.

2.3 Manufacturing Restricted Substance List

In 2013 G-Star started an investigation on a Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL) in liaison with brand specialists and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) within the ZDHC Group. Based on this investigation, we drafted our own G-Star MRSL in 2014.

The MRSL contains a list of chemical substances by CAS number that are subject to a usage ban in the manufacturing of materials, components and finished products, which include solvents, cleaners, adhesives, paints, inks, detergents, dyes, colorants, auxiliaries and finishing agents. The list will assist our suppliers in phasing out the use of the 11 priority hazardous chemical groups and beyond those groups in the future. It establishes enforceable limits for hazardous substances in chemical formulations used to process materials. The list sets limits to eliminate the possibility of intentional use of listed substances and shall be used by our suppliers when purchasing materials and chemicals from their suppliers. The identification and use of safe substitutions will enable us to make further steps towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals, such as the elimination of hazardous chemicals in effluent and reducing water usage in production due to new sustainable chemicals.

Progress

In 2014 G-Star finalized the draft of the G-Star MRSL. As an active ZDHC Member, G-Star's MRSL is aligned with the MRSL developed within the ZDHC group. Certain adaptations with regard to chemical substances have been made by G-Star in order to comply with our public Detox commitment. For example, Perfluorinated Chemical compounds are already part of the G-Star MRSL today in order to communicate in the correct way down our supply chain that we ask for a fluorine free production. The expected publication date of the G-Star MRSL is the end of 2014.

In November 2014 G-Star conducted a training session at key suppliers in India and Vietnam for the pilot implementation of the MRSL. In order to gain valuable input for the G-Star MRSL during this training programme our stakeholders, such as chemical suppliers, were invited. During the sessions ideas and thoughts on challenges within the industry and the G-Star MRSL were gathered. We identified knowledge gaps on the MRSL principle that could be clarified during the meeting, as well as an understanding from all parties that the industry needs a similar approach and document for discharge water and sludge testing. We identified actions which must be taken by all involved stakeholders (see 'Next steps 2015' below for a list of actions). G-Star received valuable input for improvements on our MRSL which will be implemented in our next version.

Next to that chemical audits on hazardous materials, EH&S standards and waste water management were conducted at these suppliers in 2014 following a newly developed chemical audit checklist.

With this implementation G-Star moved a great step forward towards the ZDHC goal, actively preventing hazardous chemicals to be used in manufacturing and moving towards a cleaner production. We are eager to keep our MRSL a live document and make sure it will be adapted based on experience and progress. Using the precautionary principle, G-Star is actively engaged to add new chemicals to this list.

Next steps 2015

Until the end of the first quarter of 2015, G-Star will finalize the implementation of the G-Star MRSL in our supply chain. This implementation will be followed by environmental audits later in 2015 that will include monitoring the input and output of chemicals during production processes. The results will be used for an internal rating system on chemical management and in order to actively monitor the progress on our phase out commitment towards ZDHC by 2020.

After finalization of these audits at key wet processing suppliers in the 2nd quarter of 2015, the testing results will be shared publically either via our online manufacturing map, IPE or another relevant disclosure platform.

The implementation of and compliance with the MRSL is an important next step towards a production free of hazardous chemicals in line with our commitment. Next steps that will be taken to reach this:

- Implement testing methods in a next version of the MRSL for chemical testing of raw materials
- Actively perform testing on input chemicals during production
- Develop documentation and guidelines on water discharge and sludge testing in addition to the MRSL
- To conduct a baseline study on MRSL/chemical compliance

2.4 Chemical Elimination

APEO elimination

In line with our commitment we recognize the intrinsic hazardousness of all APEO's and acknowledge it is a priority to eliminate their use across our global supply chain. There are multiple supply chain pathways for potential APEO contamination (including chemical formulations) and we are committed to enhance both training and auditing of our supply chain in conjunction with other global brands, as well as to ensure our suppliers have the latest information on APEOs that highlights where there is a risk that APEOs may enter into the undocumented contamination of chemical supplier formulations.

Progress 2014

- During 2013 we investigated the level of compliance with the APEO ban, reporting the findings to the public by publishing a report in August 2013 on [APEO Elimination Policy](#).
- In 2014 we continued active monitoring and testing on the possible usage of APEO's. We found a 1,4% APEO failure rate over four seasons on all samples we tested within our testing policy.
- G-Star provided an online chemical training to its suppliers. APEO's were part of this online training in which all risks involved in using APEO's were explained. Due to the training, suppliers have refreshed their knowledge on sources and root causes of APEO contamination.
- We continue to request our suppliers and any new suppliers to use APEO/NPEO free chemicals and have enforced our system with checks and measurements to ensure our supply chain stays free of APEO/NPEO.

Phthalates elimination

In line with the precautionary principle and the potential intrinsic hazardousness of all Phthalates, we acknowledge it is a priority to eliminate its use across our global supply chain. There are multiple supply chain pathways for potential Phthalate contamination (including chemical formulations) and G-Star will enhance both training and auditing of our supply chain in conjunction with other global brands, as well as ensure our suppliers have the latest information on Phthalates that highlights where there is a risk that Phthalates may enter into the undocumented contamination of chemical supplier formulations.

Progress 2014

- We are actively monitoring on Phthalates and do not except any Phthalates in our garments.
- New plastic packaging is tested on Phthalates as we do not allow any Phthalates content in our packaging.
- We continue to urge our suppliers and any new suppliers to use Phthalates free chemicals and we implemented a system with checks and measurements to ensure our supply chain stays free of Phthalates. This year we encountered a 1.2% failure rate of all samples of products we tested on Phthalates for which we needed to take corrective measures.

Perfluorinated/Polyfluorinated Compounds (PFC's) elimination

In line with the precautionary principle and the potential intrinsic hazardousness of all PFCs, we are committed to eliminate PFCs in the products that G-Star produces and/or sells. We committed to eliminate all C7 and C8

(and any longer chain) PFCs and 50% of any shorter chain PFCs (baseline as of 31 December 2012) by no later than 31 December 2013; and eliminate remaining PFC use by no later than 31 December 2014.

Progress 2014

- We eliminated all long chain PFC's by December 2013 and are investigating the performance of PFC free garments.
- By the end of December 2013, we published a case study on Subsport, the substitution support portal, titled: [Root cause investigation of PFOS contaminations in leather garments](#) explaining possible use of PFOS in the leather industry.
- By the end of December 2014 we published another case study on Subsport titled PFC free alternatives for water repellent textile finishes. This case describes the phase out of PFC chemistry for all products that require a water repellency function.
- In the process of elimination, all products possibly containing PFC have been mapped. On a one by one basis we have, in collaboration with our suppliers, looked for a PFC free solution that also meets our performance criteria. Next to that, we enlarged our RSL testing programme on this chemical group. This process will be continued in the coming year.

2.5 Water discharge

In August 2013, G-Star published the [G-Star Water Discharge Report I](#). This report describes the results of water tests executed at our Asian suppliers, accounting together for a minimum of 25% of our global production. In December 2013, we have published the [G-Star Water Discharge Report II](#) showing the water discharge data of our suppliers accounting for a minimum of 80% of our global production.

The results of these reports allowed us to obtain an understanding of the use and discharge of the 11 priority chemicals throughout the production process and form a baseline assessment of the presence of the 11 priority chemicals in our supply chain.

We have taken the results of the G-Star Water Discharge Report I and II as a baseline assessment of the quality of the water discharged by the factories where G-Star products or parts of G-Star products are produced. It also led to knowledge building and gave better understanding of the possible water contamination caused by the 11 priority chemicals.

With those results, our chemical specialists formulated and coordinated follow up activities. By reasoning that output is fully influenced by input, we decided to prioritize our activities in 2014 towards MRSL implementation. The round of chemical inventory and water testing done by G-Star in 2013 will be used as a guideline by which we can compare and measure improvements in the next round of testing that is planned for 2015 after our MRSL implementation.

We will focus on G-Star suppliers and their factories in China that have processes in-house that create a higher environmental and chemical risk. As well as vertical integrated CMT suppliers that execute printing, dyeing and/or washing processes in-house and our denim suppliers with in-house laundries

More information on MRSL implementation can be found on page 5.

2.6 Right to Know

As G-Star acknowledged the 'right to know principle', we encouraged and supported our suppliers to publicly disclose water discharge data. During 2014 we continued to encourage our suppliers to publicly disclose their water discharge data on the website of the Chinese Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) platform in China. The majority of our Chinese suppliers that are included in the baseline assessment disclosed the water discharge data on the IPE website in 2013.

Our suppliers outside of China (Bangladesh, India and Vietnam) face challenges in accessing IPE and have not yet embraced publishing their discharge data on a Chinese platform. We continue our dialogue on disclosure of water discharge data with our suppliers outside of China but respect their reserve against a foreign disclosure platform. In addition, the Chinese platform is difficult to access and understand by the local community in the country where these factories are situated. To stimulate Right to Know progress and positively impact a more transparent garment industry we launched our online manufacturing map in 2014, showing our suppliers the importance we give to transparency.

2.7 Launch of Manufacturing Map in 2014

Suppliers that G-Star has worked with for over a decade make up half of the brand's production volume. Proud of these manufacturers, G-Star has launched the Manufacturing Map in June 2014 so consumers can learn where their products are made. The map shows at which factories G-Star products are made, by describing the locations and production details including how long they have worked with G-Star, how many workers they have and in which sustainability programs they take part. The Manufacturing Map includes all direct suppliers with whom G-Star has a business relationship for over two years. In total, this covers 28 factories that together manufacture over 95% of G-Star's production volume. Through the Map, customers can also learn about the projects supported by the GSRD foundation across the various manufacturing countries.

Products in the G-Star online store are active on the map. This means that shoppers can discover the factory of origin of each product in the online store by clicking on the 'Where is it made?' button. With publishing the names and locations of our suppliers, G-Star takes a next step in transparency. This way we aim to highlight to our customers that all our products are manufactured in accordance with our social and environmental standards, and to promote a more transparent and ultimately more sustainable garment industry.

3. FURTHER RESEARCH

3.1 Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

The use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) will be phased out of G-Star garments by January 1, 2015.

- Progress We keep on actively monitoring the usage of PVC.
- We expanded the scope of the PVC ban throughout the entire company and to all our products.
- As per December 2014 the new clothing hangers will be ordered PVC free. The old hangers will be phased out.
- We ban PVC since January 2012 in our RSL 1.0

By the end of 2013 we reached our goal to eliminate PVC far ahead of our deadline in 2015.

3.2 Leather

G-Star investigated the use of chemicals in its leather products and at the leather supplier.

Progress

- Leather is less than 5% of our collection.
- In 2013 we investigated alternative solutions for CrVI tanning and the limitation of hazardous chemicals used in production of leather.
- Via one of our chemical suppliers, we have developed further expertise on degreasing processes and are sharing this expertise within our supply chain.
- In December 2013 we published a PFOS case study on PFOS in leather on Subsport, the substitution support portal.
- In 2014 we invested in training our Corporate Responsibility department on leather and its specific issues. The training enabled us to get a better insight in the leather supply chain and gave us tools to better advise our suppliers that work with leather products.
- As a result, a traceability pilot study has been started at the end of 2014 to set up a tracing system for leather products back to its hide origin. Results of the pilot study are expected in 2015.

3.3 Denim finishing

Investigate methods to replace less sustainable processes in denim production with better alternatives.

Progress:

- In 2014 we mapped the techniques used at our denim suppliers to finish denim.
- In December 2014 a denim wet processing workshop took place in Dhaka for our local production team.
- Early 2015, a denim wet processing and strategy setting meeting will take place at our Headquarters in Amsterdam for our Corporate Responsibility Department, technical engineers, and our sourcing, merchandise and design team. The gained knowledge is used to continue our work in 2015 to lower the footprint of denim finishing.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 ZDHC Group of brands

In 2012 we joined the ZDHC Group together with the brands adidas Group, Benetton, C&A, Esprit, G-Star Raw, Gap, H&M, Inditex, Jack Wolfskin, Levi Strauss & Co., Limited Brands, Li Ning, M&S, New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc., NIKE, PUMA and PVH. In 2014 Burberry, joined the group and made the joint commitment to help lead the industry towards Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC).

For more information about the ZDHC Group and progress made in 2014, please visit the [ZDHC group website](#).

4.2 Bluesign

Early 2013 we have become a system partner of bluesign technologies ag, The declared objective of the independent bluesign® standard is to put a reliable and proactive tool at the disposal of the entire textile production chain – from raw material and component suppliers who manufacture e.g. yarns, dyes and additives, to textile manufacturers, to retailer and brand companies, to consumers. bluesign technologies ag has a database of several thousand dyes and chemicals that are controlled regarding hazardous chemicals, and can be used by G-Star and our suppliers to eliminate the eleven priority chemicals. In addition, bluesign technologies ag has a database of bluesign® partner facilities with bluesign® certified products, to identify reliable partners in our supply chain.

Two significant G-Star CMT suppliers (Young One and Saitex) are bluesign® system partner, as well as five trim suppliers G-Star works with. In 2014 we visited several of our fabric suppliers together with bluesign technologies ag. During these visits bluesign technologies ag further explained their system and started discussions with these suppliers to explore system partnership.

4.3 Solidaridad

Cleaner Production Programme

The programme with Solidaridad started in 2012 and has now transformed into Better mill initiative (BMI) China. Solidaridad is an international non-profit network organisation with more than 20 years of experience in creating fair and sustainable supply chains. The cleaner production program aimed to support factories with in-house textile dyeing and finishing activities by implementing environmental improvements. This programme includes cleaner production training, environmental assessments and implementation support.

Progress:

- The cleaner production programme started in 2012 at three of our key suppliers in China.
- In 2014 a follow up audit was performed at one of key suppliers in China to monitor progress made in the following years and to analyse the impact of the program.
- In 2015 follow up audits will be performed at the other two suppliers by conducting a progress assessment via ZDHC Generic Audit protocol.
- As the cleaner production program is in its new set up of the BMI focusing on Mills in the Yangtze and Pearl River Delta, G-Star is looking into opportunities to join the new BMI program in 2015 in collaboration with our key fabric mills.

WaterPaCT program

In 2013 G-Star joined the WaterPaCT Programme with Solidaridad and the International Finance Corporation in Bangladesh. The WaterPaCT Programme is an extension of the Cleaner Production Programme in Bangladesh. The goal of WaterPaCT is to reach a reduction of water and energy consumption, improved chemical management, reduction of wastewater generation, improved water quality, and improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions. The programme has a proposed lead time of 4 years and the majority of the G-Star suppliers in Bangladesh will participate.

Progress:

- Currently, all suppliers that G-Star works with in Bangladesh are either a Bluesign member or participating in the WaterPaCT programme.
- This year two G-Star suppliers have finished phase 1 of the Cleaner Production Programme. In phase 1 the suppliers receive, based on a first factory assessment, factory-level advice on Cleaner Production (CP) measures, implementation is facilitated through User Groups and water footprint

reduction, which will lead to adoption of low-cost/no-cost measures that improve resource efficiency and reduce hazardous emissions.

- An additional 2 suppliers have enrolled in the WaterPaCT programme working on phase 1 and will start the first assessments in December of 2014.
- One supplier, DBL Group is in a further stage of the project and is doing a deep dive research phase 2. In phase 2, a technology and system deep dive, the corporate water and energy management systems are strengthened, best practice in textile processing/ dyeing and effluent treatment plant (ETP) operations and technologies are worked on, and investment in technologies with significant water sustainability benefits are supported and advised.
- The progress reports from WaterPaCT on the work done at these factories are expected before the end of 2014.

4.4 Textile Exchange

We aim to gradually increase the use of sustainable materials (i.e. organic cotton, recycled cotton, Tencel) in our products. Since 2010 G-Star is an active partner of the Textile Exchange, an industry-led non-profit organization committed to the responsible expansion of textile sustainability across the global textile value chains, to accelerate the use of sustainable materials and environmentally friendly technologies.

Progress:

- As part of G-Star's partnership with Textile Exchange, G-Star yearly visits the Textile Exchange Sustainable Textile Conference and the Textile Exchange Organic Cotton Roundtable. This year the conference was held in November 2014 in Portland. Textile Exchange continues to support us in our ambition to increase the use of sustainable materials in our collection with its knowledge base, trainings and workshops.
We continued dialogue with our supply base to find more sustainable fibre alternatives and increase the use of certified sustainable materials in our collection. The progress made over 2014 will be published in our MADE-BY scorecard mid-2015.

4.5 MADE BY

Since March 2011 G-Star has entered into a partnership with MADE-BY. This multi-stakeholder organisation supports brands in implementing strategies to improve environmental and social conditions in the fashion industry. MADE-BY verifies the implementation of G-Star's Corporate Responsibility policy and transparently monitors progress on the working conditions in the factories that manufacture our products and the use of sustainable materials in our collections.

Progress:

- Our social and environmental progress is published year-on-year by way of a Scorecard. The scorecard system measures, benchmarks and tracks G-Star's year-on-year progress on social standards in the supply chain and on the environmental impact of materials used in their products.
- The first MADE-BY scorecard of G-Star has been published mid-2013 and shows the Corporate Responsibility achievements of G-Star over 2012. The second scorecard that captures our 2013 results has been published mid-2014. In comparison to 2012, the use of sustainable raw materials in the G-Star collection has increased from roughly 10% to 20%. The social performance of the factories has improved as well in comparison to last year. The G-Star Scorecard can be found on the MADE-BY website.

5. OTHER SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS

5.1 RFTO

In February 2014 we launched our RAW for the Oceans collection that is made with Bionic yarn created out of plastic waste reclaimed from the sea. Making yarn out of ocean plastic that is suitable for RAW for the Oceans is done by Bionic. This company exclusively uses reclaimed bottles for its yarn. Plastic beverage bottles need to comply with high quality and safety standards and can therefore safely be converted into garments that meet G-Star's strict requirements on chemical use. The collected ocean plastic that cannot be used for RAW for the Oceans is included in the regular recycle process of the waste company and recycled for other purposes.

5.2 Interiors and Marketing products

Next to garments, footwear and eyewear, G-Star produces furniture and marketing products. G-Star also feels responsible for the social and environmental conditions in these supply chains. Therefore, G-Star developed a Corporate Responsibility Policy for Furniture and a Corporate Responsibility Policy for Marketing Products.

These policies provide guidance in three fields:

1. G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct (CoC) clarifies and elevates the expectations we have of our suppliers, and lays down the minimum social and environmental standards we expect each factory to meet. These expectations are the same for all our suppliers regardless of the product group that they are producing.
2. G-Star Restricted Substances List (RSL): G-Star works actively to prevent the use of chemicals that can have a harmful effect on health or the environment. The chemical use per product group differs heavily, therefore next to the apparel and footwear RSL, we also formulated a RSL for furniture and marketing products.
3. G-Star Materials Policy: The G-Star Materials Policy defines our expectations with respect to the use of materials. There are three levels in our Materials policy: Legal requirements, G-Star requirements and G-Star preferences. All our suppliers should comply with our G-Star preferences by 2020. Like the RSL there are materials policies for each specific product group.

Throughout the year, G-Star started implementing both policies. We are training our suppliers on the content of our policy. The first audits are conducted and these efforts will continue throughout 2015. Next to that we are educating our design teams, buyers and other colleagues involved in these projects.