

## Our chemicals policy

This version of our Chemicals Policy has been revised to reflect the requirements of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of CHemicals) Regulations.

The Policy aims to reduce the use of chemicals which may present environmental or other risks following their release into the wider environment. It will also lead to a better understanding of the chemicals used in our supply chain. Our principal focus is on chemicals which may be present in the final product (compared with intermediates used in manufacture, for example) since these can be more directly tested and controlled.

The Policy applies to all products sold by Home Retail Group.

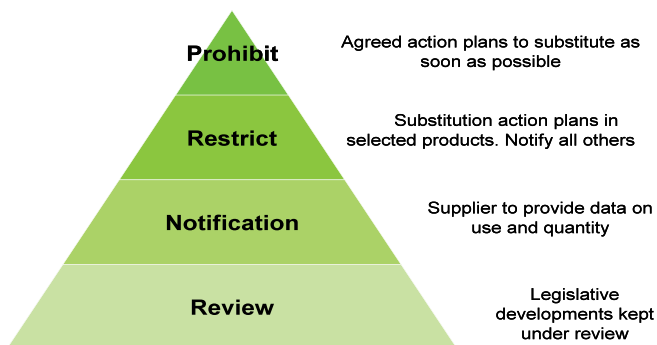
Concern has been expressed over many hundreds of chemicals. This policy draws on the following references:

- The British Retail Consortium, which has developed a list for retailers of relevant chemicals that are considered to be both harmful to the environment and/or hazardous to human health.
- The REACH SIN (Substitute it Now) list of chemicals proposed for substitution under the REACH regulations by The International Chemical Secretariat, a not-for-profit monitoring organisation. ([www.chemsec.org](http://www.chemsec.org))
- The first list of SVHCs (Substances of Very High Concern) proposed for control under REACH.

### Our chemical hierarchy

We have grouped the chemicals into four categories allowing us to take different approaches depending on the level of concern:

- **Prohibit** – chemicals which should not be used in any of the Group's products. Suppliers either confirm the absence of these chemicals or agree with us with a schedule to remove the chemicals as soon as possible.
- **Restrict** – chemicals whose use presents a particular concern in specific product types and which are therefore prohibited in these products. Suppliers either confirm the absence of these chemicals in the products in question or agree with us with a schedule to remove the chemicals as soon as possible. In other products, the chemical is treated as those classified under 'Notification'.
- **Notification** – chemicals for which we are collecting data on use or providing guidance to suppliers. Suppliers provide us with details of the chemical's use and the concentrations/weights in the final products.
- **Review** – all other chemicals are being kept under regular review for changes to legislation etc.



### Responsibility

The Group Head of Quality Assurance is responsible for maintaining this policy. It is communicated widely to buyers and other teams dealing with suppliers.

We expect the co-operation of our suppliers to help us implement this policy. We encourage suppliers to be open in their reporting to us, and aim to allow reasonable periods for the substitution of chemicals when required.

The Group will keep other stakeholders updated on progress and maintain a close watch on new information relating to the likely presence of risky chemicals in its products.