

Bluesign expands services to cut global textile value chain's impact



Building on over 20 years of excellence in the textile industry, new tiered service offerings will strengthen Bluesign's capabilities as a full-service sustainability solutions system for the entire textile value chain and expanding into promotional, workwear, corporate wear, home textile and footwear segments.

As the textile industry continues to grapple with evolving regulations, increased consumer and stakeholder pressure to meet sustainability goals, and the lack of verified data, bluesign has updated its service offerings to help brands, manufacturers and chemical companies to better understand and manage their value chains.

The new initiatives expand Bluesign's core competencies of reducing impact across the supply chain, providing reliable, third-party verified data, mitigating the use of hazardous chemicals through input stream management and replacing substances with bluesign

Approved chemistry (a positive list of chemical products with less impact on people and planet).

As the textile industry's most-trusted partner, it is CEO, Daniel Rufenacht's vision to democratise access to Bluesign's sustainability solutions by offering them at attainable levels for the whole textile industry and beyond. Bluesign's high value services are available for all companies willing to reduce the impact of their value chain without compromising on quality, the company said in a media release.

As an organisation with a team of experts in chemical management, process know-how, worker health and safety, sustainability and environmental sciences, bluesign has been offering a best-in-class suite of services under System Partnership for over 20 years. Bluesign recognises that taking environmental responsibility to a higher level requires tools and validation methods to reduce impact on people and the planet.

With this in mind, Bluesign is extending its System Partnership services and launching Data Services and Impact Services for brands and manufacturers. These tiered service packages provide expanded capabilities that enable brands to actively monitor and manage their supply chain through Bluesign verified

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impact data, covering the critical measures of water consumption, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, chemical consumption, and waste.

Data Services allow brands and manufacturers to access data from its unique supply chain and give a snapshot of their impact. Through the Impact Service package, companies are provided this data plus a foundational assessment of its overall performance and detailed analysis of its suppliers. The new Impact Service enables manufacturers to present their achievements in impact reduction and their excellence in resource management. The new tiered packages will allow companies to incrementally implement Bluesign's services with the ultimate goal of attaining full System Partnership which includes company-specific action plans. At all service levels, a yearly impact report or dashboard is provided; access to this data enables accurate analysis for decision-making and reporting both internally and externally.

CEO, Daniel Rufenacht stated, "Over Bluesign's 20-year history, the company has provided unprecedented leadership in eliminating hazardous chemicals and creating unique roadmaps for its System Partners to continually improve its processes. The deadline to reach carbon neutrality and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fast-approaching. And Bluesign's new vision and

strategy will help to accelerate progress in reducing impact. Our focus over the last year has been on expanding our expertise to accelerate towards producing more responsibly without compromising on quality and performance. We also call on companies outside of the textile and apparel industry to incrementally clean up their practices by sourcing their custom corporate clothing from bluesign System Partners."

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/bluesign-expands-services-to-cut-global-textile-value-chain-s-impact-281778-newsdetails.htm>

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Europe can achieve fibre-to-fibre recycling at scale by 2030: McKinsey



Pic: McKinsey

Around 70 per cent of textile waste in Europe could be fibre-to-fibre recycled by 2030, once the various textile recycling technologies are fully developed. The remaining 30 per cent would entail open-loop recycling or thermo-chemical recycling. This would create a new and sustainable circular industry in Europe, according to McKinsey & Company.

Textile waste can be dealt with in a variety of ways such as reducing overproduction and overconsumption, extending product lifetime, and designing products for increased circularity, according to a report by the global management consulting firm. Fibre-to-fibre recycling stands out among the number of scalable levers as it involves turning textile waste into new fibres that are then used to produce new clothes or other textile products.

Collecting, sorting, and pre-processing can help restrict the amount of textile waste available for fibre-to-fibre recycling.

However, these strategies are marred by numerous issues. By beating the odds, fibre-to-fibre recycling could reach 18 to 26 per cent of gross textile waste in 2030, according to the findings from the study 'Scaling textile recycling in Europe — turning waste into value' by McKinsey, for which scenarios were developed on how textile waste volumes and collection and recycling rates could develop through 2030.

In order to meet this scale, capital expenditure investments ranging from €6 billion to €7 billion would be required by 2030, as estimated by the report. The entire value chain, which includes textile collection, sorting, and recycling, necessitates investments to reach scale. The fibre-to-fibre industry, after it has matured and scaled, has the potential to become an independent, profitable industry with a €1.5 billion to €2.2 billion profit pool by 2030, as per the report.

Apart from the direct economic advantages, scaling textile recycling can also result in many environmental and social benefits. From an optimistic viewpoint, around 15,000 new jobs could be created, and CO2 emissions could be

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decreased by about 4 million tons.

After calculating into monetary terms several impact dimensions like secondary effects to GDP from job creation, CO2 e-emission reduction, and water- and land-use reduction, the industry is capable of reaching €3.5 billion to €4.5 billion in total annual holistic impact by 2030, the report's analysis revealed.

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/sustainability-news/europe-can-achieve-fibre-to-fibre-recycling-at-scale-by-2030-mckinsey-281917-newsdetails.htm>

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Japan to ban 56 PFOA-related compounds



Japan's environment ministry has approved a ban on the manufacture, import and use of 56 perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)-related compounds and the import of eight product types containing them under the country's Chemical Substance and Control Law (CSCL).

In a 7 July notice, the Central Environment Council (CEC) under the Ministry of Environment (MoE) announced it has designated the compounds as Class I specified chemical substances – those that Japan has assessed as persistent, highly bioaccumulative, or which have a risk of long-term toxicity to humans.

It did so after consulting on the substances and products in March and evaluating industry feedback during four subsequent council meetings. The notice does not provide an entry date for the bans. Except for essential uses, the manufacture, import and use of these substances will be prohibited.

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The CEC expects a cabinet order and WTO notification confirming the 56 substances as Class I specified substances to be published later this year, and a Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) enforcement order to amend the CSCL in 2023. But the notice said "there may be changes to the schedule due to unforeseen factors".

The product types prohibited for import are:

floor waxes;

protective and antifouling agents for textile products, excluding paper and leather products;

water and oil repellents;

textile products with water and oil repellents;

antifoaming agents;

coating agents;

optical fibres or coating agents applied to optical fibres; and

fire extinguishers, fire extinguishing agents and fire extinguishing foam.

The notice includes exemptions for "essential uses" of the following substances:

perfluorooctane iodide (PFOI) – used in the production of pharmaceuticals; and

8:2 FTOH – used in the production of invasive and implantable medical devices.

The move will align the country's approach with global PFOA restrictions under the UN's Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

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<https://chemicalwatch.com/532461/japan-to-ban-56-pfoa-related-compounds>

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