

ILO & US' Nike partner to launch new initiative for garment workers



A new initiative to cut deaths and injuries among garment and footwear workers has been launched by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Vision Zero Fund and Nike Inc. The joint initiative aims to understand why garment and footwear workers are vulnerable to injuries and deaths resulting from commuting accidents and to lessen the adverse impact on workers, their families, and the sector as a whole.

The goal is to work together to develop a common, standardised approach to reducing these accidents that can be adapted and replicated in different contexts, ILO and Nike said in a media release.

According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 1.3 million people are killed and up to 50 million people are injured worldwide on roads every year. Commercial vehicles are

involved in approximately 10 to 22 per cent of all road crashes globally. Garment and footwear sector workers are disproportionately involved in road accidents in many countries. The reasons behind this include commuting long distances, using less safe forms of transport such as motorcycles, walking to work, and sharing roads with heavy commercial vehicles.

The project's approach includes creating a Theory of Change (TOC) on road safety for garment workers, which has been put together after consultations with workers, employers, governments and ILO specialists in several countries. The partnership will also develop practical, easy-to-use guidance materials on commuting safety, which will be piloted by the Fund and Nike in a country where contract manufacturing facilities produce Nike products.

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-announcement-news/i-lo-us-nike-partner-to-launch-new-initiative-for-garment-workers-282774-newsdetails.htm>

Provided by Fibre 2 Fashion

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Korea's Hyosung TNC to sell world's first bio-based spandex



South Korea-based chemical company Hyosung TNC has succeeded in extracting spandex from corn and commercialising the world's first bio-based spandex. The company announced that it has successfully developed bio-derived spandex, 'Creora bio-based', using a natural material extracted from corn instead of coal, and obtained a global eco-friendly certification.

The 'Creora bio-based' spandex uses a corn-derived substance that obtained an eco-friendly certificate from the US Department of Agriculture, replacing a part of coal-extracted raw materials. The corn-derived substance has long been used for general fibres, wrapping papers, cosmetics, and liquid detergents, but not for high-functional textiles, such as spandex, as it is impossible to deliver unique elasticity and resilience due to technological limitations.

According to the Life Cycle Assessment, an assessment technique based on the international standards for environmental impact, when 'Creora bio-based' is applied to the products, it can reduce water use by 39 per cent and carbon dioxide emissions by 23 per cent, compared to conventional spandex products.

In June 2022, the 'Creora bio-based' received the Eco Product Mark, a global eco-friendly certification, from the SGS (formerly Société Générale de Surveillance). The Eco Product Mark is awarded to products that used eco-friendly raw materials, harmless to the human body, and produced via eco-friendly methods through ESG-oriented management.

As the European Union recently announced a full-scale adoption of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in 2025, global demand for eco-friendly biomaterials is on the rise. Data Bridge, a global market survey institute, expects the global biological fibre market to grow at an annual average of 5.5 per cent by 2029.

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Hyosung TNC will initially start production of the bio-based spandex at its production bases in South Korea including facilities in Gumi, and then increase its production through global production bases, such as those in Vietnam.

In addition, it aims to continuously increase the use of natural raw materials for its products through collaboration with global fashion brands.

“We will play a pivotal role as an industry leader by steadily developing the next-generation eco-friendly textiles including biodegradable fibre,” said Hyosung Chairman Cho Hyun-joon.

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<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/sustainability-news/korea-s-hyosung-tnc-to-sell-world-s-first-bio-based-spandex-282556-newsdetails.htm>

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KFC, Pizza Hut set to eliminate PFAS, BPA, Phthalates from packaging by 2025



Fast food restaurants KFC and Pizza Hut have committed to removing PFASs, phthalates and bisphenol A from their packaging by 2025, after an announcement from parent company Yum! Brands in its recently published sustainability report.

Yum! Brands said it will adopt a harmonised sustainable packaging policy across all its brands, which include Taco Bell, Habit Burger Grill, KFC and Pizza Hut. Taco bell had already made a public commitment in 2020 to phase out per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, phthalates and BPA from its packaging by mid-decade. This deadline has now been extended to the other Yum! Brands restaurants, as part of the policy.

A small number of US states, like Maine and Washington, have taken steps to restrict the use of phthalates or bisphenols in certain food contact materials (FCMs). A much larger number have passed or considered limiting PFAS in food packaging.

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Mike Schade, director of NGO Toxic-Free Future's Mind the Store campaign, welcomed the move from Yum! Brands saying it shows that action is feasible and the market is moving away from PFAS.

But Mr Schade urged more ambitious action on PFASs, which he said have been impacting customers and frontline communities for too long. "Retailers like Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut should eliminate these chemicals by 2023 and ensure substitutes are safe and reusable," he said. Yum! Brands and its four fast food restaurants did not respond to requests for comment in time for publication.

Focus on PFASs

Several fast food giants have also committed to phasing out PFASs from their packaging with varying deadlines.

Restaurant Brands International (RBI) – parent company to Burger King, Tim Hortons and Popeyes – aims to do so by 2026. McDonald's phase-out deadline for the persistent chemicals is currently set for 2025, while Starbucks wants to eliminate them from its food packaging by 2023.

On the legislative side, the US Senate approved an amendment last month that combined the proposed FDA Safety and Landmark Advancements (FDASLA) Act with a previous measure that would ban FCMs containing PFASs. If the latest proposal is signed into law, it is expected to take effect from 1 January 2024.

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<https://chemicalwatch.com/537397/kfc-pizza-hut-set-to-eliminate-pfas-bpa-phthalates-from-packaging-by-2025>

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