

GC3 Project Breakout

Retailer Leadership Council (RLC)

Presentation: [Click here to download slides](#)

Moderator:

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Presenters:

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Summary:

The mission of the GC3 Retailer Leadership Council (RLC) is to promote safer chemicals, materials and products across retail supply and value chains. Current members of the RLC include: Amazon, Best Buy, CVS Health, Home Depot, Kingfisher, Lowe's, Meijer, Staples, Target, and Walmart. These retail leaders are working proactively to: develop and implement chemicals policies/strategies; understand which chemicals of concern are in their products; adopt safer alternatives that perform and are cost-effective; engage suppliers in improving chemicals management and using safer alternatives; and, educate customers about safer products.

Members of the RLC provided an update on their work over the past year to identify priorities for chemical innovation and to develop a road map for increased transparency. The RLC focused this session on obtaining feedback from the entire supply chain in identifying next steps, particularly on the Transparency Road Map. Discussion questions included:

- Is your company working toward achieving transparency about chemical ingredients for formulated products? For articles?
- If yes, what challenges are you facing in doing so?
- If no, what are the main obstacles/barriers to doing so?
- What is needed to achieve these goals?
- What are your suggestions for immediate next steps?

Brands, formulators, chemical manufacturers, and representatives of government agencies provided thoughts on communication, prioritization, and stakeholder engagement. The following points emerged from the discussion:

- The supply chain participants noted that retailers receive the strongest demand signals for safer chemicals. The retailers noted consumer and business customers' demands are as strong a driver as is regulation and an interest in preserving their brand reputations.
- Flavor or fragrance houses were identified as a key stakeholder necessary for achieving transparency.
- Several companies expressed their concern about the difficulty of providing full disclosure given the complexity of their supply chains (e.g. mixture of mixtures).

- Participants noted that it is important when identifying classes of chemicals to be as clear, specific, and descriptive as possible. Increased specificity can help to drive change as these priorities can be communicated by retailers to their suppliers and to chemists that are designing new products.
- Participants discussed potential product categories to focus on as an initial next step for developing best practices in increasing transparency of chemical ingredients in articles. Some potential product categories include children's products and products that require water and oil repellency. The outdoor industry may be helpful here as it has done research on safer alternatives.