

## INTRODUCTION

UL Consumer and Retail Services (CRS) Responsible Sourcing team would like to thank our team, guest speaker, Philip Olden, and valued guests joining us for UL's first UK Consumer Retail Services (CRS) summit in London on May 16, 2017. We were thrilled to have Philip Olden representing Signet, the largest jewelry retail group in the world, give unique insights during our "Jewelry - Compliance, Conflict Minerals" session. Other sessions included, "How to Manage Complex Global Supplier Networks", "Managing Anti-Bribery Controls in Product Inspections", "Optimizing Social Audits – creative ways to gather additional insights during the Audit Process", and, "Ready to Detox? Green Services and Chemical Management".

If you were unable to join us for this event, UL shares a series of "An Interview With..." conversations with some of our speakers. This is our fourth blog from the event.

# An Interview with Elisa Gavazza



**Elisa Gavazza**

UL's Global Lead for Chemical Management



UL RESPONSIBLE SOURCING'S JUDE MACKAY SPOKE WITH ELISA GAVAZZA AFTER THE MAY 16 LONDON EVENT TO FIND OUT ABOUT SOME KEY THEMES OF THE SUMMIT.

**Jude Mackay** Elisa, congratulations, you've just launched UL's official contributory role with ZDHC. How do you recommend brands and retailers adopt their Zero Discharge commitment and get Ready to Detox?

**Elisa Gavazza** Greenpeace has very clear and ambitious deadlines for achieving Zero Discharge: they intend to see the fashion industry Detox within one generation. The demand is that brands and retailers target and eliminate the use of dangerous chemicals in both their production processes and on finished products. A Transparency approach should be adopted. Disclosure is a key element of the program.

**Jude Mackay** What are the essential first steps that brands and retailers should take?

**Elisa Gavazza** The first step is to define very clearly the goals of your Detox program, establishing a clear list of chemicals to phase out with ambitious deadlines. It's important to communicate with your supply chain your intentions, and clarify how you would like to achieve your goals. There are a lot of great technical resources available, but training your supply chain factory managers in what's about to happen to them is possibly the most important action to take, to be successful. We recognize that reaching your Detox goal will not be easy, and energy and great efforts will be required. So, adopt a risk approach: choose the most important or the highest-risk factories to start with. Once you've mapped your risks and gained buy-in with the key suppliers, create a sampling strategy. This will help you with timelines and budgeting.

**Jude Mackay** What are the challenges that we see brands and retailers facing when adopting the Detox commitment?

**Elisa Gavazza** Robustness with the details: it's difficult to find the information and source of chemicals info in the factory. Being clear of the sampling details and why you're testing is important. For example, untreated wastewater testing is essential, to have a clear picture to evaluate if your factories are using certain chemicals, or not if that's the case. Good chemicals management is the key focus in the factory, so making sure trained chemicals managers are in place within the factory, and available to you, is important, and an often overlooked part of effective management systems. You really should know your supply chain Chemicals Managers by name: they are a very valuable brand and retailer resource. Once you've identified chemicals substitutions, these are the key managers that will let you know if there are any technical challenges as in implementation through production, and you can work through issues with your trusted knowledge partners.



Data management will be a key challenge within the brand and retailer head office: managing technical information and mapping results, so a chemicals co-ordinator is a good idea.

**Jude Mackay** Ah, data management and steering the Detox ship. What are the key factors in a successful program?

**Elisa Gavazza** Your suppliers should be able to provide a complete and updated chemical inventory that really corresponds to the chemicals used and stored in the factory. This can be verified during audit at the manufacturing locations.

**Jude Mackay** Are there any positive by-products of adopting the Detox commitment?

**Elisa Gavazza** Yes, of course, this program highlights safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals, and reducing the impact of your production on the environment benefits the whole community. We expect to see brands and retailers reporting not just increased knowledge in and of their supply chain, but increased safety awareness. That's good news for brands, consumers and the workers in their supply chains. It's a win-win-win.

#### **ABOUT ELISA GAVAZZA**

With over 13 years of regulatory and quality assurance experience, Elisa leads the UL EU team responsible for the procedures and testing protocols for product safety requirements, providing companies updated information to help ensure compliance with the evolving legislations of consumer products. Elisa follows new legislations and standards development at European and National levels, and supports clients with technical issues to help expand their business. As Global Lead for Chemical Management of UL CRS, she is experienced in chemical requirements related to textiles and apparel (REACH, CLP, DETOX Greenpeace Campaign), jewellery and general merchandise.

For ZDHC-related UL services, click [HERE](#)

