

Frequently Asked Questions:

# UL Upstream Solutions from UL's South Asia Virtual Summit for Softlines



## Question

### **What other product can be tested with chemical screening? How can we save costs by validating our product through chemical screening?**

**Seemanta Mitra:** Different products can be tested for chemical screening including apparel, fabric, footwear, leather and raw materials. The more chemical screening you do in the upstream, or the raw material stage, the better it is for you. It helps in saving cost.

Chemical screening is a quick process. It's a qualitative process. It looks at whether the chemical can be detected or not detected for that product or raw material. So it can save you the cost of going into the quantitative process, and also gives you visibility and transparency in your supply chain upstream.

So if you find a chemical concern in, say, the fabric, the raw material or the supply chain, you can take the next step which is the quantitative test and see if that chemical concern is more than a specified regulatory limit in a particular country.

If you find no chemical concern, this can increase your speed to market because there is shorter turnaround time for a chemical screening.

## Question

### **Does the chemical screening cover the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and Chemicals Policy and Science Initiative (CPSI) chemical requirements?**

**Seemanta Mitra:** In terms of the CPSI chemical requirements, a material or product still has to go through mandatory third-party testing for children's products. So in a sense, chemical screening alone doesn't cover the CPSI chemical requirements because you have to do a quantitative test.

REACH doesn't specify whether you have to test. As long as you maintain compliance with REACH, it should be fine. So chemical screening is more like an audit process rather than a compliance check. If the screening reveals there is a chemical of concern and you wanted to verify that up in the supply chain, again, it's a detection test. Just a quick yes or no presence of that chemical and then you can take the next step with the quantitative test by chemical test methods.



## Question

### How does the UL mill validation lab program differ from the other testing, inspection and certification (TIC) companies?

**Seemanta Mitra:** The UL mill lab validation program is different from other traditional mill lab validation programs that you see in the industry. One of the major differences is that we offer an all-in-one proficiency test. That means when we do our proficiency testing, we also take into consideration other mill labs that are taking part in this qualification program, in addition to the global UL labs. Other validation programs are one-to-one, and only use the mill lab for the particular service provider lab that is taking part in the proficiency test.

The other important thing we do is monthly tracking of certified technicians who are qualified for this mill lab qualification program. Any changes to those certified technicians would be recorded.

Finally, we do random testing in the mill lab qualification program. That random testing is an unannounced testing between the particular mill lab along with global UL labs, a feature which is currently missing from other traditional mill lab qualification programs.

So our goal is to give you a whole robust mill lab qualification program that would give you that level of confidence in the testing that is done in the particular mill lab.

## Question

### Will retailers or buyers acknowledge UL mill validation?

**Seemanta Mitra:** Yes. There are retailers and buyers who buy into the UL's mill lab validation program. In fact, a lot of mill lab validation programs are initiated by a particular retailer or buyer in the countries in the Western Hemisphere, for example. We have many retail brands in the United States as well as in Europe who have initiated this mill lab validation program through UL.

#### About the speaker

Seemanta Mitra is the global technical leader for softlines at UL.

Seemanta provides global technical leadership and drives consistency, integrity and quality in the application of testing, inspection and certification (TIC) requirements for Softlines.

With over 20 years' experience, Seemanta is well-established in the textiles industry.

He is a senior member of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) and is active in the work of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), including their Restricted Substance List Task Force, and Canadian Apparel Federation (CAF).

Seemanta holds a Bachelor of Science in textile technology from the University of Calcutta, and a Master of Science in textile, fiber and polymer science from Clemson University.

To learn more about UL's Upstream Solutions (UPSS), visit [CRS.UL.com](https://CRS.UL.com).



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