

Patagonia to Launch Gore-Tex Laminates Made From Recycled Bionic Textiles



W. L. Gore & Associates announced that the consumer business of its Fabrics Division will introduce two new double-layer Gore-Tex laminates for outerwear insulation with Bionic textile made from plastic waste collected from coastal environments.

Gore has collaborated with the Bionic team to support its mission of reducing ocean plastic through community engagement by investing in Bionic's plastic recovery and sorting facility in Cóbano, Costa Rica. Through this effort, the operation collects plastic waste so it does not end up in the ocean. Sorted plastic waste is then turned into materials used in the textile component of these new Gore-Tex laminates.

Patagonia will introduce the first products featuring new Gore-Tex laminates with recycled Bionic textile in the Fall/Winter 2023 season. In future seasons, additional Gore-Tex Brand customers will introduce products featuring the new laminates, all of which are constructed with Gore's new ePE membrane and 100 percent recycled Bionic polyester textile made from 50

percent plastic waste collected from Bionic's operations in coastal communities and 50 percent from municipal collection.

The material is certified according to Global Recycled Standard (GRS) and durably waterproof, windproof and breathable and covered by the brand's Guaranteed to Keep You Dry promise.



- A TWO-LAYER GORE-TEX LAMINATE

"The new Gore-Tex laminates with recycled Bionic textile are a testament to how we can use meaningful scientific innovation to seek bold solutions for some of the most complex problems facing our industry," said Achim Loeffler, Consumer Fabrics Business leader at Gore. "We believe in the power of going further together by working with like-minded brands. Our collaboration with Bionic and Patagonia will enable us to turn garbage into good."

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Gore provided investment, material science and supply chain knowledge to Bionic, helping to create a robust, scalable supply chain, as well as local recycling infrastructure in the Costa Rican communities.

“Great partnerships are built on shared vision and passion, complementary expertise and the collaborative skills and discipline to see things through,” said Mark Little, global product director, men’s life outdoors for Patagonia. “This innovative project between Patagonia, Gore and Bionic represents that shared vision and what the future can and should look like for high performance outdoor protection—same waterproof performance, no forever chemistries and radically recycled NorthStar material inputs.”

Together with the Cóbano community, Gore and Bionic have collaborated to set up local waste management system to repurpose plastic waste, recycling stations along roads and beaches, organized community beach cleanup events and community outreach, and centralized sorting, bailing and flaking facility and collection routes for local businesses, schools and other institutions.

“This launch is the culmination of years of close collaboration with Gore, the development of novel processing techniques, and the creation of an entirely new and traceable supply chain,” said Tim Coombs, Bionic co-founder. “Raising

the profile of Bionic textiles to the standards of the Gore-Tex brand has been the best kind of challenge and resulted in a truly special material that has found a perfect home at Patagonia, with its long history of high-performance innovation and stewardship.”

Link

<https://sourcingjournal.com/topics/raw-materials/patagonia-gore-tex-laminates-recycled-bionic-textiles-costa-rica-plastic-389962/>

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Coach Owner Defends ‘Right’ to Use Exotic Skins



The latest battleground in animal rights within the fashion industry is exotic skins, and PETA is its frontline warrior.

At Tapestry Inc.’s annual meeting on Nov. 15, the animal rights group—which owns stock in the Coach, Kate Spade and Stuart Weitzman parent—urged leadership to implement a ban on exotic skins companywide.

“Behind every ostrich- or alligator-skin handbag is a sentient animal who endured a horrific death for corporate greed,” Tracy Reiman, PETA executive vice president, said. “PETA is calling on Tapestry Inc. to follow the lead of numerous top industry players and ban exotic skins or risk being on the wrong side of history and fashion trends.”

The animal rights group said it tried to show Tapestry that its claims of maintaining high animal-welfare standards don’t hold water, pointing out that a PETA Asia investigation in Indonesia revealed workers “bashing pythons

over the head with a hammer and chopping conscious lizards’ heads off with machetes.” PETA entities have documented the gruesome ways that reptiles are killed for their skins worldwide through eight investigations in four countries on three continents.

But Tapestry claims to use a “very small amount” of exotic skins and products throughout its brands, though the exact percentage is unclear.

“It is our belief that each of Tapestry’s brands have the right to determine what materials they want to use, in the full creative expression of their vision and in line with customer expectations and demands,” David Howard, general counsel and secretary, said during Tapestry’s 2022 annual meeting of stakeholders on Tuesday. “We are committed to high standards of animal welfare and have adopted principals and practices that require all animals in our supply chain to be treated with care and respect. We will not knowingly use species listed in the convention on international trade and endangered species agreement or the IUCN red list categories.”

Plus, through the Tapestry Foundation, the company established a \$3 million partnership with the World Wildlife Fund to launch a “pioneering” leather traceability program in Brazil earlier this year, Tapestry CEO Joanne

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Crevoiserat told shareholders during the meeting.

PETA hopes to appeal to Tapestry's bottom line, citing research that shows nine out of 10 Gen Z consumers—who, together with millennials, boast \$350 billion in spending power—say that companies should operate with environmental and social consciousness in their business practices. And, with stock in the company—as well as various other brands—PETA is trying to agitate for change from the inside.

Many companies, including Jean Paul Gaultier, Burberry, and Stella McCartney, have banned exotic skins, and many more are meeting the growing demand for sustainable, animal-friendly products by offering vegan leather options made from pineapples, mushrooms, grapes, apples, cacti and other plant-based materials.

"Again, we are committed to corporate responsibility, including animal welfare," Howard said.

Eliminating exotic skins isn't the only battle PETA is fighting, either.

The organization launched a \$1 million Vegan Wool Challenge, which offers a windfall to the first entrant who develops a vegan wool material that's visually, texturally and functionally akin or superior to sheep's wool and sold by a major clothing brand. Entrants have until the end of July 2023 to submit.

"From apples and hemp to kombucha tea and cacti, there seems to be no limit to what designers can use to create wonderful, animal-free clothing and accessories," Reiman said. "PETA is delighted to offer innovative minds a big boost that will protect sheep, push fashion forward, and help stop the environmental degradation caused by animal agriculture."

PETA entities have documented cruelty to sheep in 117 wool operations worldwide, revealing in 14 exposés that "even on 'sustainable' and 'responsible' farms, workers beat, stomped on, cut up and slit the throats of conscious, struggling sheep." While many durable, stylish, and warm fabrics are available that aren't made from animal-derived materials, creating a viable, sustainable vegan wool could help alleviate suffering and fight the climate crisis as the wool industry produces massive amounts of methane, erodes soil and contaminates waterways.

PETA previously attacked Allbirds for its use of wool after the San Francisco company went public. The sustainable sneaker brand ultimately prevailed in a separate lawsuit that questioned its animal-welfare standards.

Link

<https://sourcingjournal.com/sustainability/sustainability-news/peta-tapestry-exotic-skins-ban-vegan-wool-animal-welfare-coach-kate-spade-389871/>

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South Korea prepares overhaul of toxic substance regulation

- Draft reforms expected by end of this year



South Korea is planning to make radical changes to the regulation of toxic substances under both K-REACH and the Chemical Control Act (CCA), ushering in a more differentiated system based on hazardousness types and toxicity levels.

News of the proposed reforms follows industry concern regarding the increasing burden on business of implementing the current hazardous substances management system. In the past year, there has been an estimated threefold increase in the number of substances designated as toxic under K-REACH, reflecting stringent hazard assessments.

At a conference on 19 October that included representatives from government, industry, NGOs, legal experts and academics, the main elements of the draft plan for the management of toxic substances were presented by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) as follows:

- differential management based on toxic substances' hazardous characteristics and levels of toxicity;

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- differential management based on risk levels;
- encouraging industry's autonomous management abilities;
- reorganising and clarifying hazardousness subject to management; and
- harmonising/streamlining chemical safety related regulations.

The MoE expects the draft reforms to be ready by the end of the year. Laws will be amended and decrees and rules implemented over the course of 2023.

Hazardousness characteristics and levels of toxicity

The ministry set out the hazardousness characteristics that would be used to differentiate regulation as follows:

- substances that are acutely hazardous for humans – eg causing acute inhalation toxicity;
- substances that are chronically hazardous for humans – eg carcinogenic (equivalent to SVHCs in the EU); and
- substances that are hazardous to the environment – eg hazardous for aquatic environments.

As well as hazardousness types, the ministry plan suggested further designation and differentiation of regulation based on levels of toxicity. The draft designation criteria for toxicity are:

- acute toxicity such as oral, percutaneous and inhalation toxicity, skin corrosivity and specific target single exposure organ toxicity;
- chronic hazardousness including repeated exposure toxicity, mutagenicity/carcinogenicity/reprotoxicity; and
- environmental hazardousness including aquatic environmental hazardousness (acute and chronic).

Facilities management under CCA

During the presentation, the ministry said the facilities management rules for sites handling toxic substances under the CCA were relatively undifferentiated, and that further differentiation would be introduced based on hazardousness and handling volumes.

Facilities handling hazardous chemicals will still be required to identify the site as a 'hazardous chemicals handling facility'. However, the draft reform would differentiate the identification according to the type of hazard and level of risk.

The plans include:

- differentiated handling standards according to substances' characteristics;
- differentiated periods for safety inspection based on level of risk, hazard and handling volumes;

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- a new system whereby a business can notify (register) with the authority when starting up (as opposed to the current 'business permit given by authority' prior to start up); and
- differentiated conditions for permits or notifications.

Management based on hazardousness types under the CCA

The ministry's plans also include reforms to the way hazardous substances are managed under the CCA. These include:

- managing chronic toxic substances that are highly dispersive as acute toxic substances;
- differentiated management for chronic toxic substances based on concentration; and
- inspection exemptions for facilities managing the use of restricted or prohibited substances rather than their production.

Longer-term reforms

Alongside the reforms expected to be implemented during 2023, the ministry highlighted a number of reforms it is working on in the mid to long term, including:

- establishing a system of designation and management for endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and irritant substances;
- removal of listing and/or notification of some toxic substances;
- preparing hazard verification and management methods for mixtures; and
- reinforcing management systems for chronic and environmental toxic substances considering workers, the environment and local communities.

Background to the reforms

Industry in South Korea has been calling for reform of the hazardous substances management system under K-REACH and the CCA in recent years. In particular, business has sought changes to stringent CCA rules being uniformly applied to facilities handling hazardous substances regardless of the characteristics of those substances and level of risk.

Since 2021, industry, government and civil society groups have been discussing the use of a differentiated management system. Participants in the discussions have included BASF Korea, 3M Korea, the Korea Petroleum Association and the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea.

The MoE believes the proposed reforms will address many current industry concerns.

Shin-beom Kim, representative of the NGO for occupational and environmental health, said the suggested reforms should not be allowed to simply become a relaxation of chemical regulations.

The chemical safety conference on 'designation and management for toxic substances' held in Seoul was one of several organised by the ministry in recent years to discuss reform of the country's overarching chemical laws, K-REACH and the CCA.

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Under K-REACH, hazardous substances are managed with several lists that designate substances as toxic, restricted, prohibited, 'permitted' or as priority control substances. Substances can also be designated as emergency preparedness substances under the CCA.

Currently, 1,082 substances are designated as toxic and listed under the Toxic Chemical Substances List (TCSL). Toxic substances are managed based on eight main categories. The MoE periodically conducts hazard assessment and designates additional substances as toxic.

The current toxic substance designation categories under K-REACH are:

- acute toxicity (oral, percutaneous and inhalation);
- skin corrosivity;
- acute aquatic environmental hazardousness;
- chronic aquatic environmental hazardousness;
- repeated exposure toxicity;
- mutagenicity;
- carcinogenicity; and
- reprotoxicity.

Under the CCA, companies handling hazardous substances are managed using handling standards, facilities/equipment inspections, a business permit system and chemical accident prevention management plans (CAPMP).

Link

<https://chemicalwatch.com/600458/south-korea-prepares-overhaul-of-toxic-substance-regulation>

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