

# How IKEA phases out and substitutes chemicals of concern

ECHA Safer Chemicals conference June 2020

Therese Lilliebladh  
Requirement Manager  
IKEA Range & Supply  
IKEA of Sweden



# The IKEA business in FY19



**211,000**

IKEA co-workers



**9,500**

More than 9,500 products in the IKEA range



**433**

IKEA Stores in more than 50 markets



**43**

IKEA industry production units  
in 9 countries

**2,000**

More than 2,000 new products

**12**

New IKEA stores opened  
around the world



**2.8 billion**

visits to IKEA websites



**1 billion**

More than 1 billion visits to IKEA stores



**1,000**

Nearly 1,000 home furnishing  
suppliers in more than 50 countries

**9**

markets introduced e-commerce  
and customers in most IKEA  
markets can now shop online

**43%**

increase in  
e-commerce sales



**41.3 billion**

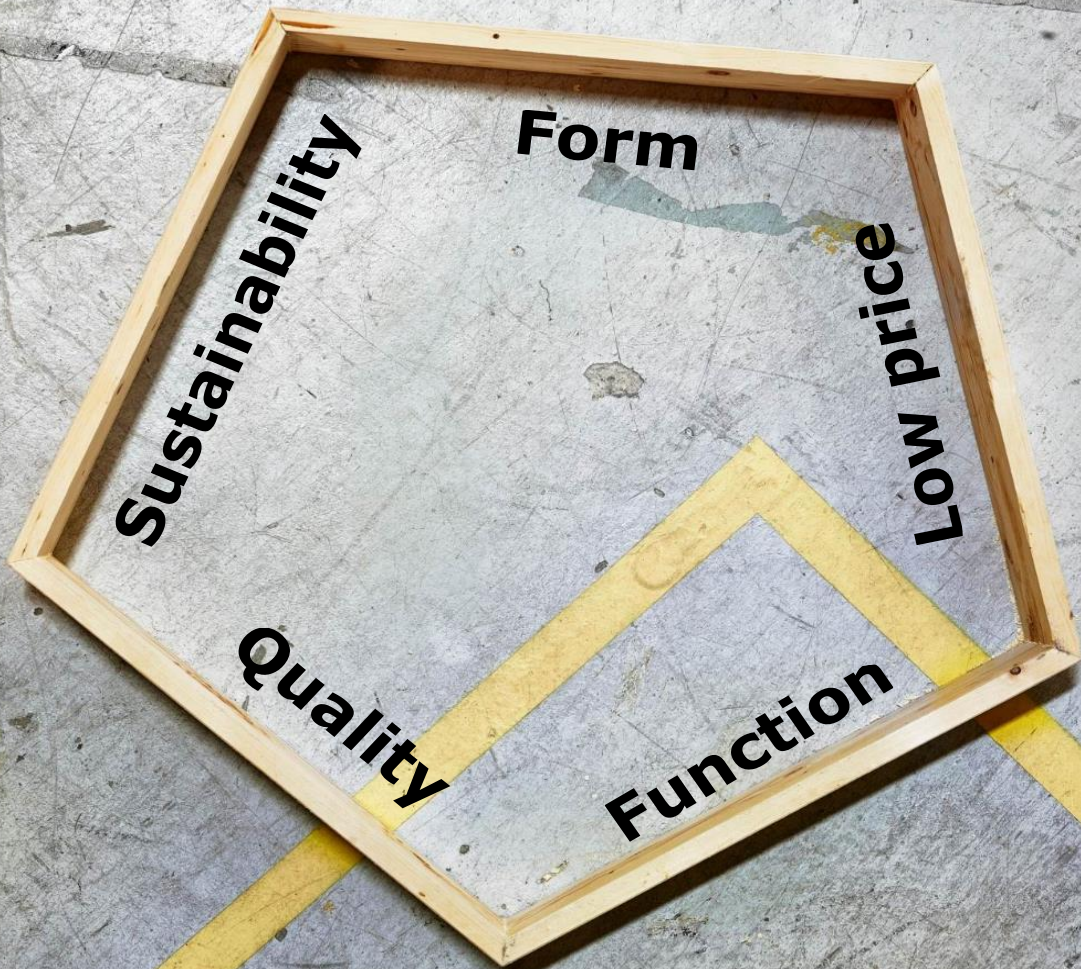
EUR 41.3 billion IKEA retail sales





To create a better  
everyday life for  
the many people





**Sustainability**

**Form**

**Low price**

**Quality**

**Function**



## The IKEA Chemical Strategy

*"All people have the right to safe and healthy products that are free from harmful chemicals"*







Our goal: Avoid harmful effects to health and environment – throughout the whole lifecycle

- Raw material
- Production process of final product
- Transport and distribution
- Product use
- End-of-life





# Strategic objectives

- Increased transparency
- Chemical risk assessments on all materials
- Phase out substances and materials that could cause harm
- Suppliers that share our values
- Increased awareness about our work on chemicals







How we do it



Spec. no: IOS-MAT-0010  
Date: 2018-06-20  
Version no: AA-10911-14

## Specification Chemical compounds and substances



Issued by  
Ralph Nussbaum  
Laws & Standards Specialist,  
Requirement Development

Signature  
*RN*

Authorised by  
Vladimir Brajkovic  
Development Manager,  
IKEA of Sweden

Signature  
*Brajkovic*

### Che

Abot  
This sp  
substar

The pu  
• m  
• er  
• m

Unless  
homog

This sp  
except:

- su
- le
- ha
- Pl
- ca
- ac
- el
- la
- la
- ch
- ct
- zi
- ac

The re  
include  
section  
above.

For con  
specific

- S
- W
- El
- ag
- Pr

Unless  
any m

© Inte

Spec. no: IOS-MAT-0054  
Date: 2018-11-14  
Version no: AA-92520-11

## Specification



Issued by  
Olga Bar  
Product  
Specialist  
Develop



## Specification Plastic food-contact materials – chemical requirements

Spec. no: IOS-MAT-0103  
Date: 2017-11-15  
Version no: AA-1180066-5

Issued by  
Eva Jarevik  
Product Requirements &  
Compliance /Product Laws  
& Standards specialist

Signature  
*EJ*

Authorised by  
Vladimir Brajkovic,  
Manager,  
Product Requirements  
& Compliance/  
IKEA of Sweden

Signature  
*Brajkovic*

Replaces:  
AA-1180066-4

## Plastic food-contact materials – chemical requirements

### About this specification

This specification describes IKEA requirements, including requirements on testing and documentation, applicable for IKEA articles that contain plastic where the plastic comes in contact with food.

This specification applies to all plastic articles and materials which are intended or foreseeable to be used for the preparation, serving, consumption and storage of food and beverages.

The purpose is to ensure that IKEA articles, under normal and foreseeable conditions of use, do not transfer their constituents to foodstuffs in quantities that could:

- endanger human health.
- bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the foodstuffs or deteriorate their smell, taste, or colour.

All requirements in this specification apply to all surfaces and materials to be in contact with food. This includes, for example, the inside of lids, and gaskets/sealing that may be in contact with food.

This specification does not apply to parts of an article for which there is no foreseeable contact with food.

All references to standards, legislations and recommendation documents shall always be seen as referring to the latest updated version, including any amendments.

### Relationship with other specifications

In some cases, the requirements in this specification concern the same substance as chemical requirements given in other specifications in PDOC. In that case, the strictest requirement shall apply, i.e. both requirements shall be fulfilled.

This document is connected to IOS-TM-0024, *Test methods for sensory analysis on organic food-contact materials*, and to IOS-TM-0025, *Test conditions for food-contact plastic materials, other polymeric and organic materials*.

© Inter

# Chemical requirements

- Customer health and safety
- Working environment
- Outside environment
- The Class approach



# Chemical requirements

Spec. no: IOS-MAT-0010  
Date: 2019-12-20  
Version no: AA-10911-15

## Specification Chemical compounds and substances



Issued by  
Ralph Nussbaum,  
Product Requirement Specialist,  
Requirement Engineering

Signature

Authorised by  
Richard Nilsson,  
Requirement Engineering Manager,  
Requirement Engineering R&PE,  
IKEA of Sweden AB

Signature

## Chemical compounds and substances

### About this specification

This specification describes IKEA bans and restrictions on certain chemical compounds and substances due to national or international regulations and/or health and environmental concerns.

The purpose of IKEA requirements concerning chemical substances in IKEA products is to:

- minimise harmful effects to customers' health and to the environment from IKEA products.
- ensure compliance of IKEA articles with health and environmental regulations in all IKEA markets.

Unless otherwise stated, the requirements in this specification are valid for each separate homogeneous material in the article.

This specification concerns chemical substances in all materials and components in IKEA articles, except:

- surface coatings and coverings that are included in the scope of IOS-MAT-0066.
- leather that is included in the scope of IOS-MAT-0011.
- hair on leather that is included in the scope of IOS-MAT-0104.
- PU-coated fabric (artificial leather) that is included in the scope of IOS-MAT-0079.
- candle raw materials, see instead IOS-MAT-0049.
- adhesives that are included in the scope of IOS-MAT-0069.
- electrical materials/components as defined in IOS-PRG-0027.
- latex in mattresses that is in the scope of IOS-MAT-0012.
- labels that are in the scope of IOS-PRG-0019.
- chemical products retailed by IKEA in the scope of IOS-MAT-0074.
- chemical products as art materials in the scope of IOS-MAT-0095.
- zippers that are in the scope of IOS-PRG-0029.
- according to any other exceptions to the scope in the product documentation.

The requirements stated in section 1 are valid for all materials and complete products. This includes all material categories regardless if they are included in material-specific sections of section 2 of this specification or not, but it does not include the exceptions to IOS-MAT-0010 listed above.

For composite materials that are made of a mixture of materials from two different material-specific sections in section 2 the requirements in both sections apply. For example:

- Laminates: paper and polymeric requirements apply.
- Wood-plastic composite: wood/wood-based and polymeric requirements both apply.
- Elastic band with rubber core and textile thread: polymeric (rubber) and textile requirements apply.
- Pressure sensitive tape/adhesive tape: polymeric and adhesive requirements apply.

Unless otherwise stated, requirements in section 3 are valid for the complete product, including any materials that otherwise are outside the scope of this specification.

A general ban on for example:

- CMR substances category 1A or 1B
- Substances of Very High Concern, SVHC\*

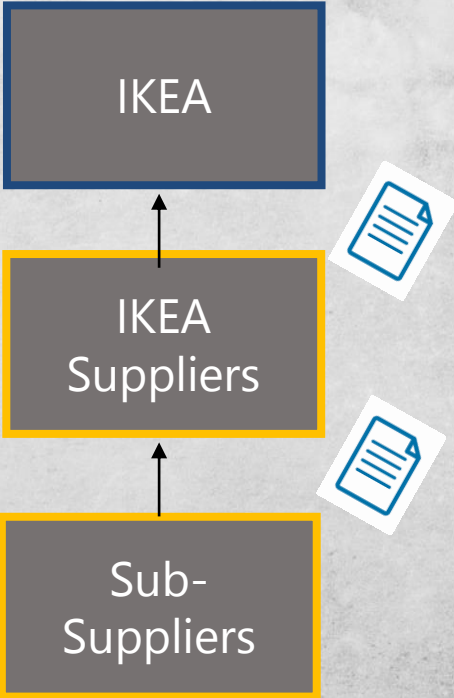
\*With exceptions given mainly related to metallic lead in electrical components



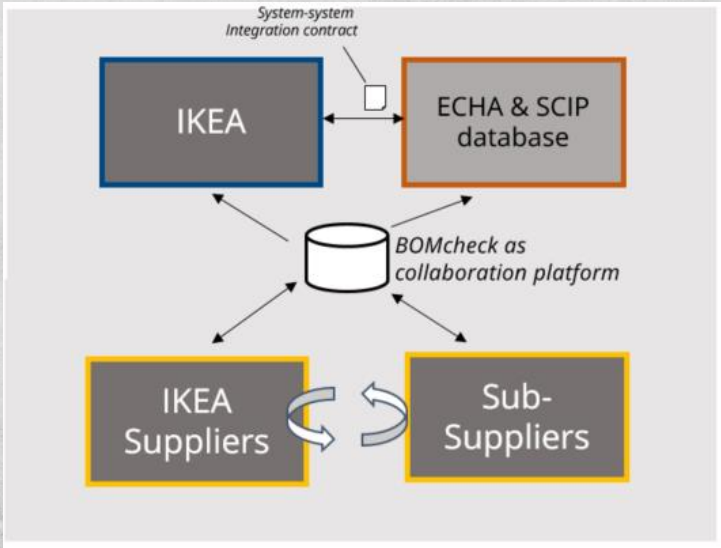


# Managing SVHC today and tomorrow

From this:



To this:

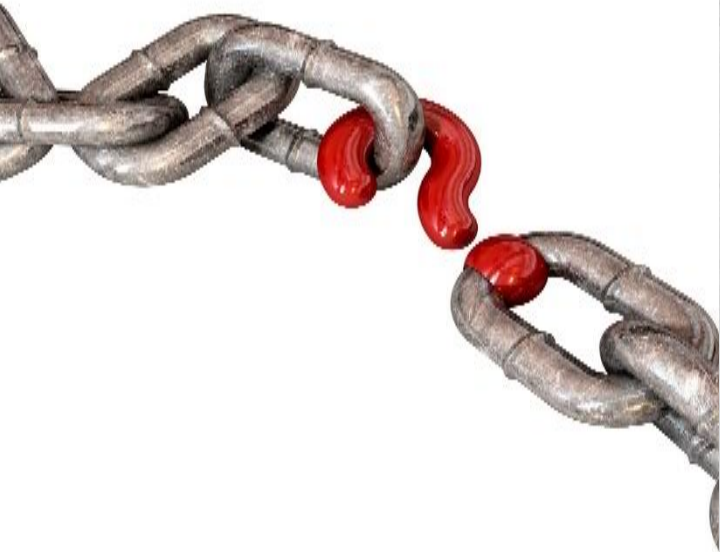


# Policy recommendations

1. Group substances and avoid regrettable substitutions
2. Streamline chemical regulations and reporting requirements
3. Align with circular and climate policy initiatives







# How to secure the supply chain?

IKEA supplier to:

- Identify IKEA chemical requirements and verification method (e.g. test report or self declaration)
- Communicate the requirements down the supply chain
- Evaluate sub-suppliers and materials
- Secure process control in production





# Testing

- During product development
- Before first delivery and then continuously (verifying tests)
- In case of audits
- Spot checks
- Testing after claims





# Substitution of harmful chemicals





# Identify and prioritize

- Hazard: Health + Environment
- Exposure potential (risk)
- Impact – How big volume of products/materials?





# Phase out considerations

- Is the substance needed?
- Are there alternative materials?
- Or are there alternative substances?
- Are the alternatives really safer?
- If no – is it worth it?

A close-up photograph of a dark, textured fabric surface, possibly a jacket or tent material, with numerous small, clear water droplets scattered across it. The droplets are in various stages of condensation, some sharp and some blurred. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image, containing white text.

**PFAS – banned in textile  
since 2015**



Phthalates – banned in childrens products since 2006 and in food-contact products since 2009



A man with a beard, wearing a dark blue shirt, is sitting on a concrete step and playing an acoustic guitar. He is looking down at the instrument. To his right, a young girl with curly hair, wearing a blue and white patterned shirt and blue sneakers, is sitting on the same step, looking up at him with a smile. The background is a colorful outdoor setting with a red wall on the left, a black metal railing, and various colorful fabrics hanging from above. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle in the center of the image.

*Most things  
still remain to  
be done. A  
glorious  
future!*

*- Ingvar Kamprad*