
ZDHC MRSL Industry Standard Implementation Approach

Version 2.1
November 2023



Introduction

The ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL) V2.0 and the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance document V1.1 have been updated to [ZDHC MRSL V3.1](#) and [ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0](#) respectively. The update occurred in November 2022 in line with [ZDHC MRSL Update Principles and Procedures Guidelines V3.0](#). We have created an implementation plan so that each stakeholder group connected to the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme has clarity on the timelines and actions required for the successful adoption and implementation of the guidelines.

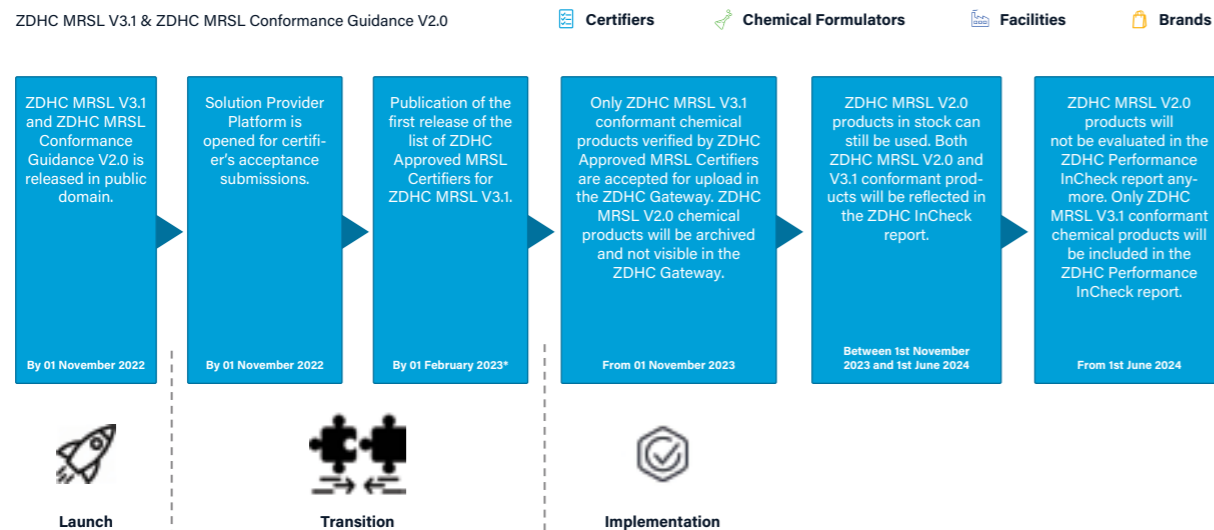
Four key stakeholders are essential to the implementation:

- 1) ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifiers
- 2) Chemical Formulators
- 3) Suppliers and manufacturing facilities
- 4) Brands and retailers

Stakeholders have 12 months to take the actions required by this implementation approach to ensure adoption and complete implementation by the cut-off date for each stakeholder.

The transition timeline for the implementation approach is defined as:

Transition Period



General Impact

ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and Conformance Guidance V2.0 impact each stakeholder in these ways:

- To become a ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifier, certifiers need to apply for approval by the ZDHC Quality Team to issue certification for the ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and for the appropriate ZDHC MRSL Conformance Levels according to the criteria detailed in ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0
- Chemical Formulators need to recertify their products to ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and upload these products to the ZDHC Gateway at the appropriate ZDHC MRSL Conformance Levels
- Suppliers and manufacturing facilities need to update their chemical inventory and recipes for ZDHC MRSL V3.1 conformant products and use up stocks of ZDHC MRSL V2.0 conformant products before the cut-off date of 1st June 2024
- Brands and retailers need to inform and train their supply chain partners on the new requirements of ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0 and set new targets to be achieved

All stakeholders should adopt the ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and the decision to use the latest version of ZDHC MRSL should be evident in a company's internal and external policies, and communications. ZDHC MRSL V3.1 must be referenced in communications either through the company website, text or simply by communicating ZDHC MRSL V3.1 in full.

- Scope can be defined by the organisation based on its scope of business and exemptions can be made for valid reasons, e.g. workwear (for example hospital, functional police and army uniforms), or personal protective equipment (for example fire-fighter, combat or car-racing gear)
- An organisation has the right to add additional substances to be rated as adopting ZDHC MRSL, however, all communication must refer to ZDHC MRSL as the primary document and any additional substances included as an organisation-specific appendix.

Implementation occurs when steps are taken – beyond adoption – to put the decision into action. These steps could be but are not limited to, training, change in purchase actions, and the primary tracking of compliance with the new policy.

ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifiers - Implementation Approach



Certifiers need to start with internal actions in their organisation beginning with a study of the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0 and the ZDHC MRSL V3.1 documents to evaluate how their certification aligns with the criteria in these guidelines and if any updates to their internal systems and own certification criteria are needed.

After checking their internal systems, a certifier can apply to become a ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifier for the ZDHC MRSL V3.1 conformance through the process outlined in the Solution Provider Platform. If all is in good order, the ZDHC Quality Team will communicate acceptance at the appropriate ZDHC MRSL conformance level through the ZDHC website.

Each ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifier will need to communicate their process for updating their certification from ZDHC MRSL V2.0 to ZDHC MRSL V3.1.

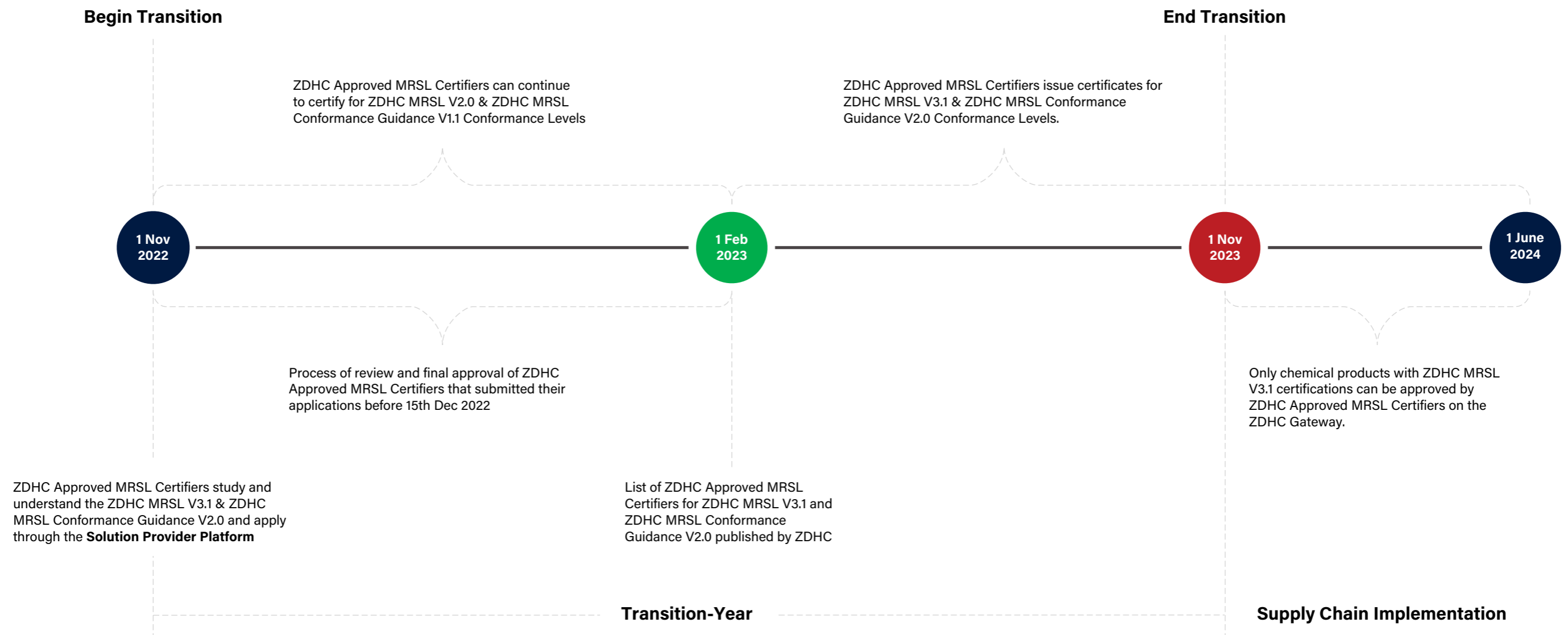
ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifiers – Implementation Approach



The transition timeline and activities for ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifiers are:

Transition for ZDHC Approved MRSL – Certifiers

ZDHC MRSL V3.1 & ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0



Chemical Formulators – Implementation Approach



Formulators need to take key steps to implement the new guidelines:

- 1) Check for the newly added substances listed in ZDHC MRSL V3.1 in the current product portfolio (and the candidate list – optional)
- 2) Check the limits for unintentional impurities of the substances listed in the ZDHC MRSL V3.1 in the product portfolio
- 3) Update or replace formulations which do not meet the above two criteria
- 4) Select a suitable ZDHC Approved MRSL Certifier and certify the products for ZDHC MRSL V3.1 at the required ZDHC MRSL Conformance Level according to ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0
- 5) Upload and publish the certified products in the ZDHC Gateway

Formulators can prepare themselves by studying the substances listed in the candidate list of ZDHC MRSL V3.1 and taking action for phasing out these substances in their product portfolio.

After 1st November 2023, only formulations certified for ZDHC MRSL V3.1 can be uploaded in the ZDHC Gateway.

Chemical Formulators - Implementation Approach (continued)

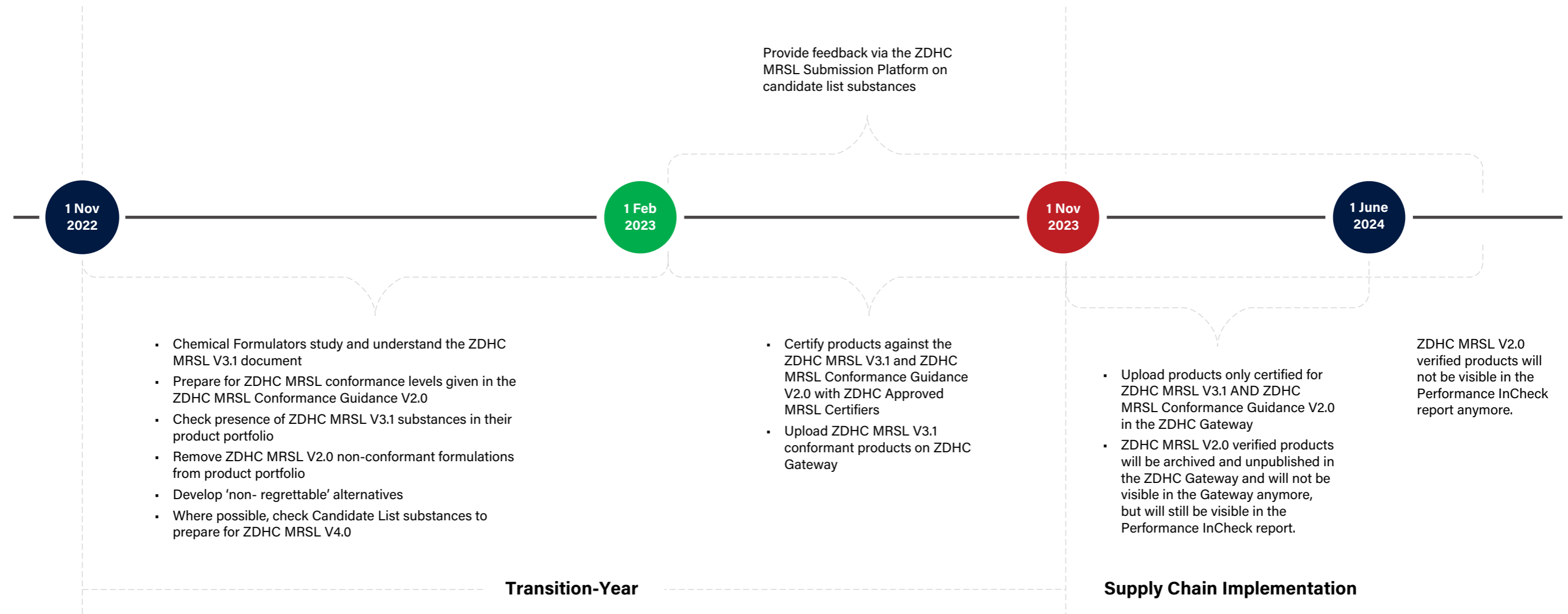


Transition for Chemical Formulators

ZDHC MRSL V3.1 & ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0

Begin Transition

End Transition



Facilities / Suppliers - Implementation Approach



Suppliers should start with two key steps:

- 1) Have a clear overview of all the chemicals used in the facility and the current ZDHC MRSL Conformance Levels of these chemicals
- 2) Communicate with their chemical vendors to supply ZDHC MRSL V3.1 conformant products after 1st Nov 2023

From 1st Nov 2023, start purchasing only ZDHC MRSL V3.1 conformance products listed in the ZDHC Gateway as much as possible.

Suppliers must aim to exhaust stocks of ZDHC MRSL V2.0 products from their inventories by 1st June 2024 at the latest. The Performance InCheck Report will show both ZDHC MRSL V2.0 and ZDHC MRSL V3.1 products until 1st June 2024.

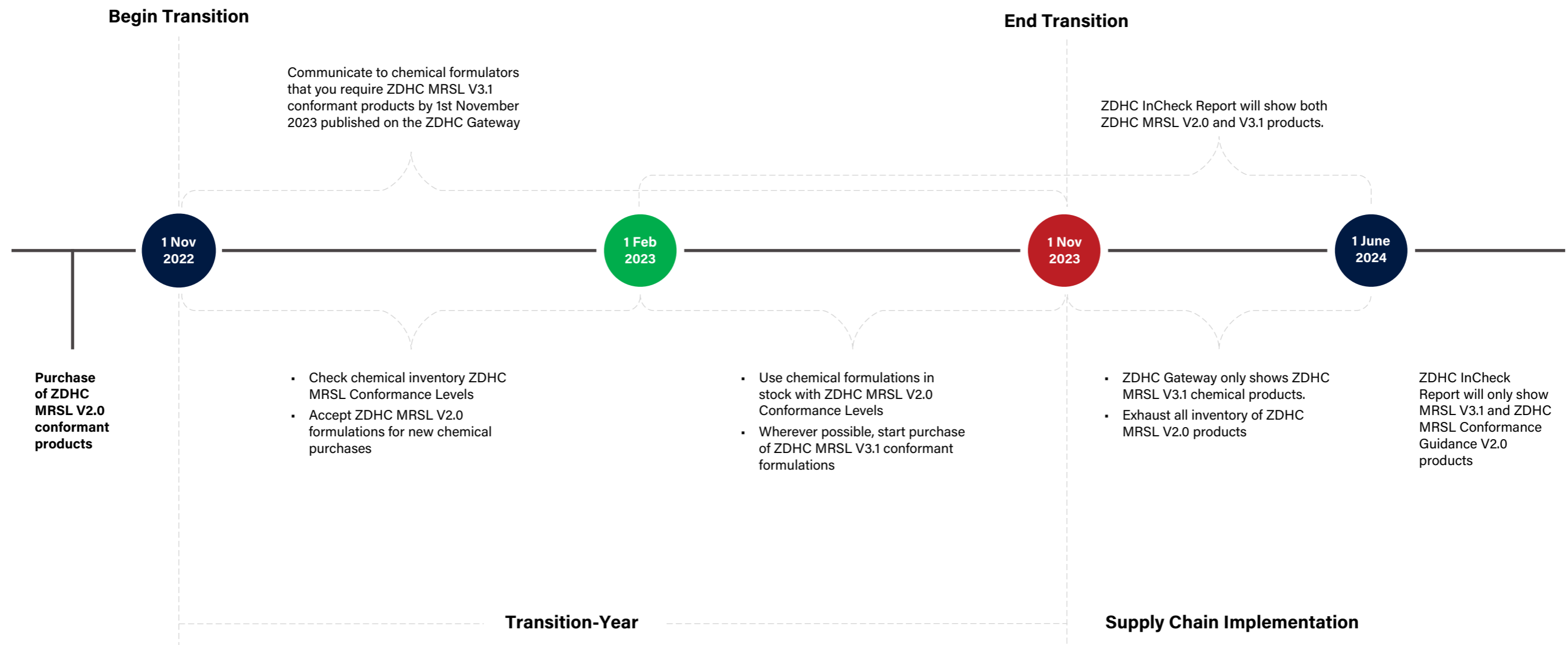
Facilities / Suppliers - Implementation Approach



The transition timeline and activities for Suppliers and manufacturing facilities is:

Transition for Suppliers

ZDHC MRSL V3.1 & ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0



Brands and retailers – implementation approach



The role of Brands and retailers is to communicate and create awareness about the documents and the implementation plan to their supply chain partners.

Training should be carried out through ZDHC Academy, webinars or regional workshops. Brands should insist on ZDHC MRSL V3.1 conformant inventory in ZDHC InCheck Reports from their Suppliers from 1st June 2024.



Brands and retailers – implementation approach

The transition timeline and activities for Brands and retailers is:

Transition for Brands

ZDHC MRSL V3.1 & ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance V2.0

