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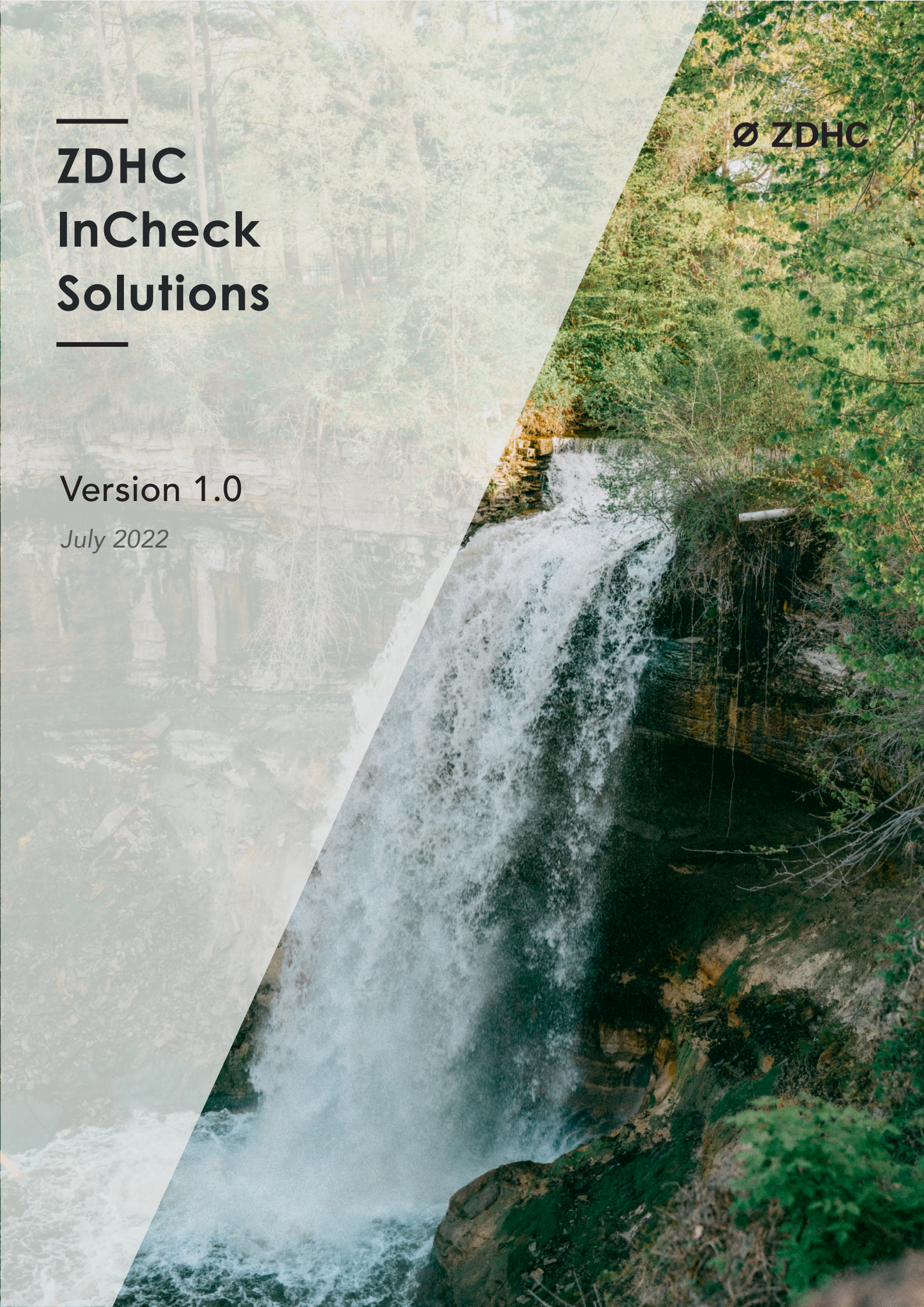
# ZDHC InCheck Solutions

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Ø ZDHC

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## ABOUT ZDHC

The ZDHC Foundation oversees implementation of the Roadmap to Zero Programme and is a global industry collaboration of brands, value chain affiliates, and associates within the sports, fashion, luxury and outdoor industry.

Its vision is widespread implementation of sustainable chemistry, driving innovation and best practices in the textile, apparel, leather and footwear industries to protect consumers, workers and the environment. Through collaborative engagement, standard setting and large-scale implementation ZDHC advances the industry towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.

ZDHC takes a holistic approach to sustainable chemical management and enables tangible progress in the wider industry through a number of reference guides, practical tools, capacity building and innovation projects. More information about ZDHC at [www.roadmaptozero.com](http://www.roadmaptozero.com)

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## Introduction

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The ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme created a paradigm change in the approach to sustainable chemical management in industry by shifting the focus from output management (product conformance) to input management (eliminating hazardous substances at the entry stage by suppliers). The premise is that cleaner inputs, combined with correct process controls, will lead to cleaner outputs.

ZDHC InCheck Solutions help suppliers demonstrate their efforts to improve the management of their chemical inventory towards sustainable chemistry and conformance with the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (ZDHC MRSL). Suppliers can demonstrate that they purchase chemical products which minimise risk to human health, improve worker safety, and have limited impact on the environment. ZDHC InCheck Solutions also enable suppliers to assess their own chemical inventory conformance to ZDHC MRSL and share the results with brand customers, without sharing details of the chemical inventory itself.

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## 1.0 ZDHC InCheck Solutions within the ZDHC Holistic Approach

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ZDHC InCheck Solutions are just some of the resources that suppliers can use on their journey towards more sustainable chemistry. Our holistic approach includes other guidelines, platforms, and solutions. Here we explore how InCheck Solutions work alongside:

- [ZDHC MRSL](#)
- [ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module](#)
- [ZDHC Chemical Management System \(CMS\) – Framework and Technical Industry](#)

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### 1.1 ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List

The backbone of our holistic approach, ZDHC MRSL is a list of chemical substances banned from intentional use in chemical formulations and facilities.

[ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance](#) explains how to assure that chemical formulations do not intentionally use banned chemical substances.

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### 1.2 ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module

ZDHC Gateway is a powerful platform for change, connecting the global fashion industry to enable sustainable chemical management. The ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module is the world's first verified database of safer chemistry for the apparel and footwear industry. It helps suppliers evaluate chemical products against the ZDHC MRSL conformance level requirements and find safer alternatives. Suppliers can connect with brands to share their Performance InCheck reports.

## 1.3 ZDHC Chemical Management System – Framework and Technical Industry Guide

The Roadmap to Zero Programme provides direction for implementing a chemical management system (CMS). An effective CMS is paramount to worker safety and reduces environmental impacts on the local community and broader environment. A CMS is one of the cornerstones for ensuring continuous improvement towards our goal of zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.

The ZDHC chemical management approach aims to minimise environmental impact and provides an entry point for different stakeholders in the supply chain. The ZDHC CMS Manual comprises two complementary components:

1. [ZDHC CMS Framework \(the Framework\)](#), which lists minimum requirements for a CMS according to ZDHC
2. [ZDHC CMS Technical Industry Guide](#), which provides more specific, technical information to support implementation of the ZDHC CMS Framework in a facility

Among other things, the ZDHC CMS explains why suppliers should maintain a chemical inventory list (CIL). A CIL is a list of all chemical products purchased and delivered in the facility, in processes and tooling/operations, which it checks against environmental impacts such as ZDHC MRSL conformance.

## 2.0 ZDHC InCheck Solutions

ZDHC InCheck Solutions provide an easy-to-understand overview of ZDHC MRSL Conformance Levels for the chemical products in a supplier's chemical inventory. By checking its chemical inventory against the products registered in the ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module, a supplier gains a better understanding of its overall performance and insight for improvement.

ZDHC provides industry with three complementary types of ZDHC InCheck Solutions that support continuous improvement of ZDHC MRSL conformance by suppliers and different levels of trust for brand customers.

There are three complementary InCheck Solutions provided by ZDHC:

- 1. Performance InCheck (including Performance InCheck Report).** This self-assessment of the chemical inventory aims to give suppliers insight on the status of their sustainable chemical management journey.
- 2. Verified InCheck – Level 1.** An onsite spot check by a ZDHC approved second or third party verifier starts to build trust in the self-assessment done through Performance InCheck.
- 3. Verified InCheck – Level 2.** An onsite audit by a ZDHC approved verifier provides the next level of trust and adds transparency to the supplier's sustainable chemical journey.

## 2.1 Performance InCheck Report



Performance InCheck Logo: When the logo is visible on the supplier's ZDHC Gateway profile the supplier has generated one or multiple [Performance InCheck](#) reports.

In addition to the general objectives of InCheck Solutions, the objective of a Performance InCheck Report is to drive continuous improvement of a supplier's chemical purchasing practices.

The Performance InCheck Report is based on the chemical inventory data recorded in a supplier's chemical inventory, and the supplier is responsible for truthfully digitising a complete chemical inventory for the Performance InCheck Report.

Suppliers should use the Performance InCheck Report primarily as a tool for internal monitoring of the chemical products in its chemical inventory for ZDHC MRSL conformance levels and as motivation to make improvements. We recommend this is done monthly.

While suppliers may use the Performance InCheck Report to demonstrate the ZDHC MRSL conformance levels of their chemical inventory to interested stakeholders, it should be noted that this is self-assessed. The Performance InCheck Report should be used to evaluate individual chemical products registered on the ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module and certifications against the ZDHC MRSL.

## 2.2 Verified InCheck – Level 1



Verified InCheck - Level 1 Logo: When the logo appears on a suppliers' ZDHC Gateway profile this means that a ZDHC accepted verifier has performed an onsite audit and has verified the correctness of the suppliers' reported inventory based on the last three Performance InCheck Reports.

In addition to the general objectives of InCheck Solutions and Performance InCheck Report, the aim of a [Verified InCheck – Level 1](#) is to:

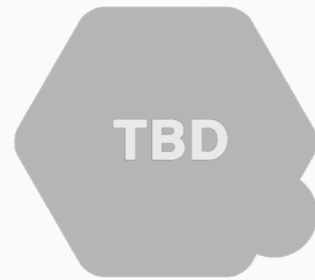
- Review the overall completeness and accuracy of the chemical products in a supplier's chemical inventory compared with those published in the ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module
- Enhance confidence and trust in the Performance InCheck Reports generated by a supplier of brands connected with it
- Verify the completeness of the supplier's chemical inventory

Verified InCheck – Level 1 is an onsite verification of the supplier's self-assessed Performance InCheck report.

It should be used by suppliers to verify the robustness of their Performance InCheck process, results, and how they monitor chemical inventory for ZDHC MRSL conformance. It motivates suppliers to improve ZDHC MRSL conformance levels of chemical products in their chemical inventory by cross-referencing to the ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module. It also adds a level of trust to the Performance InCheck self-assessment because it has been verified through a spot check conducted by a ZDHC approved verifier.

Verified InCheck – Level 1 should be carried out annually.

## 2.3 Verified InCheck – Level 2



Building on the objectives of the other checks, a Verified InCheck – Level 2 also aims to:

- Review the overall completeness and accuracy of chemical products in a supplier's chemical inventory with those published in the ZDHC Gateway – Chemical Module
- Create a credible baseline from which the supplier can track its sustainable chemistry journey
- Create a transparent and verified report of the supplier's chemical inventory through an on-site check of the full chemical inventory of the past 12 months

Verified InCheck – Level 2 enables suppliers to provide transparency and significantly enhanced trust to their partners regarding their sustainable chemical management and implementation journey of the ZDHC MRSL.

We recommend undertaking Verified InCheck – Level 2 annually.

## 3.0 The InCheck Journey

InCheck Solutions are key drivers of the Roadmap to Zero Programme implementation journey. By offering three InCheck Solutions we aim to make a supplier's journey towards sustainable chemical management:

1. Performance InCheck,
2. Verified InCheck - Level 1 and
3. Verified InCheck- Level 2

Continuous improvement in sustainable chemical management is an ongoing journey on a perpetual improvement cycle. Suppliers come in many shapes and sizes, with different degrees of chemical management system maturity, which is why InCheck Solutions can be tailored to the needs of the organisation. The use of InCheck Solutions can be arranged, with a few exceptions, flexibly along the journey.

Verified InCheck – Level 1 is based on available Performance InCheck reports. At least three (3) Performance InCheck reports must be completed before a Verified InCheck – Level 1 can be requested. A Performance InCheck report is best done every month but can be carried out on a different cadence if resources do not allow a monthly frequency. The longest time allowed between two Performance InCheck Reports is two months for those requiring a Verified InCheck – Level 1.

Verified InCheck – Level 2 is effectively a full audit of the chemicals stored and used during a year at the supplier. This InCheck Solution is a tool for conducting an in depth, accurate assessment, or an annual audit of the chemical inventory. In the continuous improvement cycle, the Verified InCheck – Level 2 can be considered the end- and starting-point on the InCheck journey.

After the Verified InCheck – Level 2, the same process may be repeated or adjusted to the findings. For example, if lots of inconsistencies were found, a supplier may decide to increase the frequency of the InCheck Solutions. If the exercise provides a positive outlook on the chemical management on-site, the same process can be followed in later years to maintain insight in the progress of the supplier.

