

Microfibres Pledge

This pledge sets goals and commitments for your business. Due to expected developments in microfibre testing, technology and legislation, the requirements of Bronze, Silver and Gold will be reviewed and adapted after 2 years.

Date of statement: November 2020

Test for microfibre loss

By signing this pledge, you are committing to work towards testing your garments for microfibre loss. A test for microfibre loss has been developed by the Microfibre Consortium. Support our call for a standard test for microfibre loss through a publically available standard to be introduced by the end of 2022. Our aim is that by 2023 the microfibre test will be applied alongside ISO 3758:2012 care label tests by distributors.

Bronze

- Understand microfibre testing process

Silver

- Bronze commitments
- Commit to microfibre testing all garments by 2022

Gold

- Bronze and Silver commitments
- Test all garments for microfibre loss
- Remove or take steps to change the choice of material in those garments that are the worst performing as soon as your business and contractual commitments permit and by 2024 at the latest

Keep customers in the know

By signing this pledge, you are committing to share with us your intended communication plan to provide your customers with simple information on how to reduce microfibre loss from their clothes. Every time synthetic fabrics are washed, they discharge plastic fibres which make their way to our seas. [Our top tips for customers are here](#), which you are free to use in their entirety or in part within customer communications, so long as you reference the source.

Bronze

- Develop, share and implement microfibre communications plan
- Communicate to your customers about steps they can take to reduce microfibre loss

Silver

- Bronze commitments
- Update and implement your microfibre communications plan to include the latest level of information/data about your testing results, keeping this updated as testing progresses

Gold

- Bronze and Silver commitments
- Update and implement your microfibre communications plan to include the performance of all tested garments
- Point of sale – share microfibre shedding performance information relating to garments on swing tags or on the care label.



Sign up to operation clean sweep and verify best practice pellet handling across your supply chain

Reducing microplastic pollution isn't just about microfibres. Currently Operation Clean Sweep is the only international (voluntary) initiative, led by the plastics industry, that provides guidelines for best practice to prevent pellet loss. By signing this pledge you are making a commitment to adhere to best practice and implement systems for pellet handling. [You can sign up here today.](#)

However, despite this initiative running a number of years, it is estimated (in 2016) that up to 53 billion pellets annually are lost to the environment in the UK alone, with an estimated 230 000 tonnes of pellets are lost every year globally during the production of plastic products – equivalent to around 15 billion plastic bottles. This could be rapidly cut by 95% [if the right solutions are implemented.](#) Therefore, UK and international projects are currently underway to create a supply chain accreditation approach to tackle pellet loss, using standards and certification schemes to allow retailers and brands to ensure pellet loss-free supply chains.

For example, BSI (an international standard setting body) is currently developing a PAS (Publicly Available Specification), expected to be available in 2021. This will create a standard against which companies can be audited to verify they are implementing best practice effectively and is the first step toward creating a supply chain certification. [Details on the supply chain approach are available here.](#)

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and publish an action plan to reduce pellet loss throughout the garment supply chain (using Operation Clean Sweep, the BSI PAS on pellet loss, or a full supply chain certification, as available) by 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze commitments Minimum of 50% of garments are produced in compliance with best practice pellet handling across supply chain (Operation Clean Sweep, the BSI PAS on pellet handling, or a full supply chain certification, as available) by 2022 Promote the BSI PAS for pellet loss across your supply chain once it becomes available (2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze and Silver commitments All garments are produced in compliance with best practice pellet handling across supply chain (Operation Clean Sweep, the BSI PAS on pellet handling, or a full supply chain certification, as available) by 2022, and this is verified by independent audit Require BSI PAS for pellet loss across your supply chain once it becomes available (2021)



Removal of PFAS "Forever Chemicals"

By signing this pledge, you are committing to removing PFAS (per- and poly- fluorinated alkyl substances) from all products. PFAS (sometimes called PFC's) are persistent chemicals often used for waterproofing or stain resistance in textiles. This pledge requires you to understand the environmental problems associated with PFAS and commit to removing them from all products including substances that are yet to be formally banned.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the need to remove PFAS from products Identify all products sold by the company that contain PFAS, e.g. cosmetics and footwear, and make a plan for their replacement by a given date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze commitments Commit to removing PFAS from all clothing products by 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze and Silver commitments Commit to removing PFAS from any products and packaging by 2024



Check your supply chain

By signing this pledge, you are committing to map the composition and manufacturing location of all relevant products. Depending on the complexity and length of your supply chain, this pledge may also require that you review your second tier suppliers. Critically, this pledge requires you to identify and review the dye houses and mills that your products come from as these may be a source of microfibre release to the environment. We are aware that few businesses have full visibility of their supply chain, so by signing this pledge, you are committing to plan to achieve this visibility over a timeframe reasonable to your business. Where the products you supply are washed as part of the manufacture or dyeing process, you should look into options for textile washing machines to be fitted with microfibre filters.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First tier of supply chain is mapped • Commit to an action plan for fitting a minimum of 25% of the factories in this first tier with washing machine microfibre filters by the end of 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze commitments • Second tier of supply chain is mapped • Commit to an action plan for fitting a minimum of 50% of the factories in your first and 25% your second tier with washing machine microfibre filters by the end of 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze and Silver commitments • Commit to an action plan for fitting a ALL of the factories in your first and second tier with washing machine microfibre filters by the end of 2024



Get your recycling on track

By signing this pledge, you are committing to check your recycling policy. We want to see recycling occurring within the UK ideally, or within Europe, to reduce carbon footprint and help adhere to high standards of regulation. This means we would like you to commit to any programmes of recycling that are based within UK or Europe, and that you actively promote the value of recycling within these areas rather than long distance export. Some recyclable materials are incinerated to produce energy. However, we do not consider turning plastic waste into energy, or any other equivalent, as 'recycling' - and any of your figures which quote recycling should not include this. .

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and publish recycling plan and policy, including the process you follow for disposal of unsold consumer goods • Minimum of 25% of garments are recycled within UK/EU OR commitment to recycle 50-90% within the UK/EU by 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze commitments • Minimum of 50% of garments are recycled within UK/EU • Website/Social media communication on recycling policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze and Silver commitments • Over 90% of garments are recycled within the UK/EU • Active customer involvement with recycling schemes

