



PRESSEMITTEILUNG SALEWA Group

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Information letter on the current 2013 Greenpeace report

On Dec 12, 2013, Greenpeace published a second comprehensive report entitled "Chemistry for any weather" on pollutants in outdoor clothing. Greenpeace tested 15 jackets and 2 pairs of gloves for environmentally harmful or potentially harmful chemicals, focusing again on so-called perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) - and in particular on the evaporation of fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOHs) and fluorotelomer acrylates (FTA).

Greenpeace calls upon the entire outdoor industry to forego the use of PFCs as soon as possible since perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) can escape into the environment in the production process or while textiles are worn. Once released into the environment, PFCs degrade slowly or not at all. Nonetheless, there have been no documented instances of PFCs being absorbed by skin contact. Hence, wearing outdoor clothing alone has no negative impact on wearers.

In contrast with the 2012 Greenpeace report, a SALEWA product was tested this year - Kali GTX, a highly functional 3-layer mountain jacket made of GORE-TEX® Active Shell from our 2013 summer collection. According to Greenpeace, the tested jacket contains fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOHs), and perfluorocarboxylic acids which may occur in PTFE membranes and DWR treatments. This means that fabrics are treated with a solution called DWR (durable water repellent) to equip them with the technical functionality you would expect of outdoor products. The DWR treatment for Jacket Kali is based on C6 chemistry. Ever since we became aware of the problems concerning PFCs, we have worked actively on the transition from C8 to C6 chemistry and in a further step, where possible, to PFC-free DWR. Since lead times for the development of our products tend to be very long, improvements are always delayed. At this time, for instance, we are developing our 2015 summer collection 2015. The Kali Gore-Tex jacket, which was tested in the summer of 2013, was conceived as early as 2011.

Regarding the use of water-repellent (DWR) treatment, we are in the process of changing from C8 to C6 chemistry; however, this cannot be regarded as a definitive solution to the problem. What's more, we are currently testing PWR equipment which is free of poly-and perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs). In the upcoming collections, the first products featuring this solution, which was developed by Rudolf Chemie SALEWA, will be brought to market. With regards to the 2015 summer collection currently being developed, we anticipate that SALEWA will be able to offer about 20% of the DWR textiles in our clothing line without PFCs. Our goal is to increase the share of these environmentally friendly solutions in our clothing collection to about 50 – 60 %.

We have sent the Kali jacket to an independent and accredited institute to have it tested. Based on these results, we can get to the bottom of the elevated values and devise solutions for alternatives and improvements. Together with our suppliers and partners such as bluesign® SALEWA is committed to an ongoing process toward cleaner and more sustainable solutions.

Naturally, we are aware that there is still much to be done in this regard and have resolved to tackle this challenge energetically but one step at a time. As a technical brand, we stand for high quality products that meet the high demands of our consumers. Hence, we consider it an important task to expand the use of PFC-free alternatives while reducing compromises in the performance of our products to an absolute minimum. As we develop our products further, we will try to exploit the achievements of the chemical industry by offering products that are both functional and sustainable.