

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – NIKE CHEMISTRY PLAYBOOK & RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST

### **Q: What is the NIKE, Inc. Restricted Substances List?**

A: The NIKE, Inc. RSL is the set of chemistries that NIKE actively monitors in its supply chain. The chemistries on the list exist to:

- Meet the most stringent legislative limits worldwide
- Protect NIKE workers and consumers from potentially harmful chemicals
- Achieve NIKE goals of eliminating undesirable chemistries
- Align with industry partners to move the industry into a sustainable direction

### **Q: How do I test a material for RSL?**

or

### **Q: How does the RSL testing process work?**

A: Suppliers send samples in to NIKE-approved third-party labs for chemical testing against a list of restricted substances. The lab then provides the data to both the supplier and to NIKE. All materials must meet the limits in the NIKE RSL before being delivered to NIKE.

Please refer to the RSL document for complete guidance on the testing program.

### **Q: How many materials need to be tested for RSL?**

A: This depends on the product category. There is specific guidance on whether the supplier is producing Fabric, Leather, Synthetic Leather, Plastics, Metal items, etc. Please see pages XX to XX in the Chemistry Playbook for further guidance.

### **Q: How much does a RSL test cost?**

A: The cost of testing is determined by the “Material Type” of the item sent in. Please consult with one of the RSL approved labs regarding cost. You will need to know which material type/ test package will be applied to the sample being sent in. Test packages are in the range of USD 200 ~ 700 depending on the analysis required and turnaround times.

### **Q: Are other type of RSL test result such as REACH, Oeko-Tex Standard 100, etc. be used as RSL compliance?**

A: Not at this time. This is a potential future direction of the program.

### **Q: Can R&D or Info Only test results be counted as official RSL test result?**

A: No. Tests that only include a subset of analytes from a test package cannot be used to show RSL compliance.

**Q: What to do when you have new manufacturing location?**

A: Contact RSL support (RSLSupport@nike.com) and fill the new supplier document to get the info added to the RSL lab system.

**Q: Who has to comply with the RSL?**

A: Suppliers of any material, item, or product (including promo items, giveaway items and all subcontracted products) must meet the requirements in the RSL when manufacturing for Nike, its affiliate brands and licensees.

**Q: Why do Nike and its affiliates need to follow the RSL?**

A: The RSL is a guide to help factory partners produce globally-compliant products and materials. This allows Nike and its affiliates to market and sell its products globally, with certainty that they will meet any and all local regulations.

**Q: I am a licensee, where do I find information specific to me?**

A: Refer to the Global Product Licensing Playbook, available at:  
<http://www.nikeglobalproductlicensing.com/playbook/>

**Q: How often does Nike update the RSL?**

A: Future updates may occur at any time due to regulatory changes, but typically updates occur on a once per year cycle. This usually takes place in mid-March

**Q: How does Nike select chemicals for the RSL?**

A: The RSL is based on the most stringent worldwide legislation and on substances that Nike voluntarily decides to restrict in footwear, apparel and equipment in order to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, negative chemistries in products and processes. In 2017, Nike has aligned with the AFIRM Group RSL chemical limits. See more at [www.afirm-group.com](http://www.afirm-group.com)

**Q: Which lab(s) can be used for RSL testing?**

A: The RSL contains a complete list of approved labs in several geographical locations. Test reports from other labs are not accepted as proof of RSL compliance.

**Q: Can I use other labs for RSL testing?**

A: No. Nike created and maintains specific test methods for the testing program. These Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are shared with approved labs, and those labs are audited against the use of those standards.

**Q: How long are test results valid?**

A: Test results are valid for one year from the date of testing. However, if the production process, any input chemistry, or material/product is changed then a new test is required.

**Q: What is the goal of the RSL?**

A: The ultimate goals of the Nike RSL is to:

- Ensure products comply with the strictest global legislation or voluntary Nike requirement
- Ensure targeted substances are limited or eliminated
- Enable sustainable product innovation
- Protect the supply chain from producing non-compliant products by ensuring input materials and items are compliant.

**Q: How does the RSL tie-in with Nike Materials Sustainability Index?**

A: The Nike MSI program takes into account three separate scores from the RSL program, totaling 16 points.

- For full, current program details, NIKE, Inc. vendors please refer to documentation on the NIKE vendor portal, [www.nikemsivp.com](http://www.nikemsivp.com).

**Q: What is the Nike Green Chemistry Program/Validation of a Greening Effort?**

A: This program is designed to reward suppliers that are taking an active role in chemicals management by driving sustainable alternatives into the supply chain. Up to 7 MSI points (material specific) can be awarded for best-in-class performance in this program. Suppliers can engage in this program by following the guidance in 'Validation of a Greening Effort' form in the RSL document.

**Q: How do I prepare ink/paint/adhesive samples to be sent to the lab?**

A: Submitting these types of samples to the laboratory requires special preparation steps, and they cannot be submitted in raw, uncured form.

The loading of pigment into the base must be added at 15% loading for all sample submissions. This level of loading is slightly higher than used in any product, and gives suppliers assurance they will not fail during any product testing. Any additives used in the application must also be added prior to the curing process.

- **Ready-to-use (RTU) ink products** must be submitted as-is, with no changes to the formulation. All products must be cured and dried in a manner consistent with the ink manufacturer's recommendations or the actual conditions used in production. Currently, it is not acceptable to submit a composite ink sample (more than one pigment in a base).
- **Digital and sublimation prints** must be tested once per year. The sample should be prepared by printing each color individually on an RSL-compliant fabric representative of production material. The samples must be applied with production transfer paper and on production equipment.
  - When submitting sublimation prints to the lab, please print each base color independently on three A4-sized sheets of fabric.
  - Example: If four base colors are used for sublimation printing, print twelve A4-sized sheets, three for each base color.
  - For digital prints, print at least 10 grams of ink for each base color. Print should be submitted for testing fully cured and dried on a glass slide (preferred) or on an RSL-compliant material.

- **Adhesives** – apply to an RSL compliant fabric or material that will be bonded, a glass slide, or other non-reactive surface that allows scraping off the cured, dried adhesive. Please submit at least 10g of dried sample.

**Q: What happens if I cannot dry the ink/paint sample before submitting to the lab?**

A: Please contact the appropriate NIKE, Converse or Hurley person for Apparel, Equipment or Footwear. The contact information is at the end of this document.

**Q: What happens if a supplier fails RSL testing?**

A: The failure resolution process is outlined in the RSL and includes submission of a Failure Resolution Form (FRF) and/or a Quarantine Form (QRF) for follow-up. The QRF should be e-mailed to the appropriate contact within 8 hours of the failure. The contact information is at the end of this document.

Any affected materials or products must be quarantined and not shipped or utilized in production until the failure resolution process is complete, corrective actions have been taken, and direction has been given by NIKE.

**Q: When does the updated RSL take effect?**

A: To give suppliers time to comply with the new RSL, we allow a 90 day period after an RSL update for suppliers to adjust to any new chemical limits. All materials or items produced for Nike, Inc must comply with an RSL revision 90 days from the date it is posted (posting date listed in RSL section).

Materials that have already passed RSL testing within one year are not required to be retested against the updated RSL. Directive testing programs and seasonal test requirements must still be met when applicable.

**Q: What has changed in the latest RSL update?**

A: Please refer to the RSL Update Highlights Document, available at [www.nikeincchemistry.com](http://www.nikeincchemistry.com).

**Q: Who can I contact for further information?**

A: Please chose the appropriate contact from the list below:

Converse (Apparel/Equipment):	<a href="mailto:Raymond.Guerrero@converse.com">Raymond.Guerrero@converse.com</a>
Converse (Footwear):	<a href="mailto:Hilman.Suradja@nike.com">Hilman.Suradja@nike.com</a>
Hurley (All):	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Raffaelli@hurley.com">Lisa.Raffaelli@hurley.com</a>
Nike (Apparel/Equipment):	<a href="mailto:Logan.LaRossa@nike.com">Logan.LaRossa@nike.com</a>
Nike (Footwear):	<a href="mailto:John.Moraes@nike.com">John.Moraes@nike.com</a>
RSL Support (All):	<a href="mailto:RSLSupport@nike.com">RSLSupport@nike.com</a>