

SGI Europe[≡]



Future-proof textiles: Insights 2025

No place to hide: The new era of
transparency in the textile industry

in partnership with



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The textile industry is entering a new compliance era.

New testing standards, tighter detection limits and growing data requirements are raising the bar for chemical management across the value chain. What once counted as compliance is now a continuous process shaped by verification and transparency.

At the same time, textile chemistry itself is undergoing a transformation. Advances in biobased sourcing, PFAS-free formulations and identical-chemistry systems for recyclability are changing what performance means and how it can be proven.

For brands, this creates both pressure and opportunity. The ability to adapt formulations, validate data and anticipate regulation will decide who stays ahead as expectations move from claims to evidence.

This whitepaper, developed by SGI Europe with insights from RUDOLF, examines these shifts in detail. It highlights how regulatory updates and innovation trends interact, what brands should prioritise, and how RUDOLF's chemical expertise supports verified performance and data integrity across the textile industry.

Executive Summary

1

Regulation is rewriting competitiveness

PFAS, bisphenols, and biocides show how quickly today’s standard can become tomorrow’s liability. Stricter testing and new frameworks like the ESPR mean compliance is no longer a certificate at the end of production but a moving target throughout the value chain.

Key Levers:

- Update testing regimes ahead of 2025-2028 deadlines
- Phase out restricted chemistries early
- Prepare data systems for Digital Product Passport integration

2

Consumer trust becomes market currency

Consumer trust is a business leader’s greatest competitive advantage. Consumers now expect brands to be transparent about their environmental and social impacts, and to be able to prove it. This requires a fundamental shift in how companies manage their supply chains and how they communicate with their customers.

Key Levers:

- Build transparency into your supply chain
- Communicate verified claims and data with your brand
- Embed governance through the value and design lifecycle

3

Innovation turns compliance into advantage

Performance is no longer enough. Companies must also demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. This requires a fundamental shift in how companies manage their supply chains and how they communicate with their customers.

4

Verification replaces paper trails

Regulators and consumers demand proof of compliance. Paper trails are no longer enough. Companies must demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and to transparency through the value and design lifecycle.

The full report also explores how shifting consumer expectations influence brand credibility, how traceability now includes chemical inputs, and how advances in textile chemistry enable better data verification and design for recycling.

These priority areas show how compliance is put on the agenda from consumers and regulations alike.

Proof now matters as much as performance, and the companies that adapt early will be those shaping the market's next decade.