

Job Description : Leather & Footwear Expert (Under Fibres & Materials Competence Centre)

About ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme

The ZDHC Foundation, Amsterdam oversees the implementation of the Roadmap to Zero Programme and is a global industry collaboration within the apparel and footwear fashion industry. The ZDHC vision is widespread implementation of sustainable chemistry, driving innovations 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 through the delivery of guidelines and solutions including capacity building and innovation projects. For more information about ZDHC see www.roadmaptozero.com

Job Purpose

The Leather and Footwear expert will play a pivotal role in researching the various materials, chemicals and processes used in the manufacturing of leather and synthetic footwear, as part of the Fibre & Materials Competence Centre. This role emphasizes a deep understanding of the industry, the manufacturing processes of materials, and the environmental impact of chemicals used in the processes. It also covers the knowledge on hazardous substances used in chemical formulations. The candidate will collaborate with cross-functional teams and other Competence Centres in ZDHC to ensure that the development of projects and guidelines that align with ZDHC's vision as well as global industry standards.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Conduct in-depth research on existing and emerging materials for footwear manufacturing and their chemical footprint
- Identify the hazardous processes and substances concerning the ZDHC MRSL and ZDHC WW Guidelines in the leather and synthetic footwear supply chain
- Document footwear manufacturing processes, from raw material processing to final assembly.
- Track and stay updated on industry regulations, standards, and certifications related to footwear materials.



The ZDHC Foundation

- Conduct training sessions / webinars for internal teams as well as external communities on sustainable footwear materials and processes.
- Participate in industry conferences and events to share knowledge and stay updated on the latest trends, processes and innovations.
- Support the ZDHC Gateway team to populate formulations that meet the ZDHC MRSL from chemical formulators catering to the leather and synthetic footwear industry
- Lead and manage specific phase-out projects on restricted substances related to leather and footwear in coordination with industry stakeholders
- Initiate and update existing guidelines and/or develop new guidelines on industry concerns
- Support collaboration projects with ZDHC Signatory Brands sub-group on footwear, like-minded organizations and research institutions, in the subject area
- Support the technical writer in preparing articles for publishing in the ZDHC Knowledge Base for access by the ZDHC community to get guidance on the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme processes and guidelines based on frequently asked questions
- Support in the development of training materials for ZDHC Academy and modules on ZDHC digital platforms related to Fibre & Materials

Required Skills

- Bachelor's or advanced degree in Leather and Footwear Technology, Chemistry, or related fields
- At least 5-7 years of experience in materials research, with a focus on footwear and leather materials or in the leather/ footwear chemical industry.
- Deep knowledge of leather / footwear manufacturing processes and the chemical impact of materials.
- Familiarity with environmental standards and regulations related to the leather and footwear industry.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- Able to work with individuals from a range of different backgrounds
- Excellent project management skills including planning, monitoring and working with targets and deadlines.
- A proven ability to manage multiple work activities by establishing clear objectives and targets that deliver results.
- Fluent written and verbal English.

ZDHC Specific Attributes

- Team player with an international background – able to work well and create strong positive relationships with individuals from a range of different cultural backgrounds.
- Able to manage multiple work activities and deliver results in a timely and efficient manner.
- Goal orientated, and results-driven whilst also being a confident communicator.
- Self-driven and motivated.
- Confidently operate in a fast-paced, frequently changing environment.
- Able to proactively initiate and take responsibility for results and work activities that may not be specifically identified in this job description.
- Flexible with a high tolerance for ambiguity.
- Practical and pragmatic - exhibit a 'can do' attitude that is solution-orientated, with a strong analytical ability to interpret information and translate it into solutions and/or improvements.
- Able to establish strong positive relationships with relevant stakeholders.

IMPORTANT NOTE

We are looking for someone who can work at our office in Thane (near Mumbai), India, but suitable candidate can also be considered for remote working. However, travel to the Thane and Amsterdam office for meetings would be required on a frequent basis.

This hiring process is not supported by a relocation package to move to Mumbai, India. Please send in your CV and a one-page write-up on why you are interested to work with ZDHC to:

Prasad Pant
Competence Centres Director
pant@zdhc.org

OR

Dr Smita Bait
Technical Manager
Fibres & Materials - Competence Centre
bait@zdhc.org