CLOSING LOOP PLASTICS: POWERED BY TRACEABILITY

The only difference between a recycled polymer and a virgin one is the feedstock. That's why brands and retailers need assurance that the products they claim are made from recycled materials actually are - and there's no way to test for it after-the-fact. Companies need raw material traceability to ensure recycled claims are factual; that's the only way they can obtain Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Content Standard (RCS) certifications. It starts with traceability: continuous validation that recycled feedstock is unadulterated through the supply chain all the way until it is sold as part of a final product. For companies that recycled plastics in hundreds or thousands of items, the task of managing recycled certifications can be unwieldy unless it's automated. That's where the Sourcemap Recycled Polyester & Nylon Platform comes in: it's the first time that a recycled certification process can be managed in software, enabling far more accuracy and far greater assurance than was possible through audits alone.

The Recycled Polyester & Nylon Platform is built on traceability to ensure there is no supply chain 'leakage' - instances in which compliant raw materials are replaced by non-compliant, and vice versa. In parallel, the platform verifies every transaction against certificates of feedstock authenticity and flags irregularities for further examinations and audits. Finally, an automated fraud detection algorithm is in place that continuously monitors the entire supply chain and alerts purchasing managers if anything is amiss.

TRUST AND VERIFY

A responsible chain of custody relies on timely, accurate and complete data submitted by stakeholders at every tier of the supply chain. In the case of GRS and RCS nylon and polyester, this means that raw material producers, manufacturers and distributors need to maintain a continuous open communication channel. Sourcemap achieves this through a secure enterprise social network which prompts each stakeholder to enter key data only when necessary, and provides automated feedback to make sure that each participant is compliant at all times. The process begins when an order is placed for recycled polymer: the order number (PO#), quantity and quality are automatically extracted from purchasing software (ERP, PLM). Suppliers are requested to upload down certificates, as well as proof of volumes shipped. Buyers and distributors confirm the volumes received and their ultimate destination (product, batch nos.) Sourcemap is able to automatically monitor for inconsistencies between volumes ordered, shipped, certified and received, and alerts participants when there is a possibility of non-compliance.

HOW TO: ENSURE AUTHENTIC RECYCLED FEEDSTOCKS

- **Reconcile every transaction:** Integrating PLM or ERP data automatically enables suppliers to quickly attach certificates to every certified shipment.
- **Maintain an end-to-end audit trail:** Invite stakeholders across the supply chain, from raw material to retail distribution, so that every stakeholder can lend eyes to ensuring that quantities ordered match quantities shipped.
- **Make Audits Easy:** Assemble all the documents required for an audit in one secure location, or let Sourcemap do the work for you and virtually audit every single transaction automatically.
THIRD-PARTY VALIDATION
The Recycled Polyester & Nylon Platform maintains a complete audit trail for certified materials from producer to retail distribution. It stores all documents, information on every transaction and on every user interaction. Auditors can have direct access to the entire data pile at the push of a button to conduct sample. Sourcemap offers added assurance in the form of pattern-matching algorithms that flag data obtained under suspicious patterns. Companies using Sourcemap's Recycled Polyester & Nylon Platform can confidently assert that their recycled materials are 100% recycled - and can make the traceability data available to their B2B and B2C consumers to back it up.

THE NEW NORMAL IN RESPONSIBLE SOURCING
Thanks to automated integrations with purchasing software and a supplier portal that's easy to use, full traceability over the chain of custody has become business-as-usual for many raw material supply chains. The best part of digitizing these workflows is the time that your employees won't have to spend pushing emails and spreadsheet attachments, sending reminders, and making sense of the data that comes back. All of the data uploaded to Sourcemap is standardized and cleaned automatically before it reaches your screen. In a world where making claims about responsible sourcing is a huge part of the value proposition, do it right and make certain that the claims you make are ones you (and your general counsel) can stand up for.

To find out more about Sourcemap's Responsible Wool and Down Platform and the rest of our chain of custody assurance offerings, and to see a demo, contact us at the email and website below.

About Sourcemap
Sourcemap is a 2011 MIT software spinoff dedicated to supply chain traceability and transparency. Our software is used by leading manufacturers and brands to account for the end-to-end supply chain and measure performance and risk every step of the way. Sourcemap’s award-winning visualizations, proprietary graph databases and supply chain social network make total supply chain visibility the new normal. Interested in bringing your supply chain to the next level? Get in touch and we can stand up a platform within hours.

REQUEST A DEMO
Send us an email at sales@sourcemap.com

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