

## **Toxic Release Inventory Program:**

**P2 Contest** 

# Vibram Corp

About Vibram Corp: Vibram Corp is an Italian company that specializes in the production of high-performance rubber outsoles for footwear. Founded in 1937 by Vitale Bramani, Vibram has become a global leader in the outdoor and athletic footwear industry, providing innovative and durable sole solutions for a wide range of activities, from hiking and running to industrial work and military use. Vibram Corp's soles are renowned for their grip, durability, and flexibility, and are used by many top footwear brands around the world. In recent years, Vibram has expanded its product offerings to include innovative midsoles and insoles, as well as sustainable materials and manufacturing processes.

#### **POLLUTION PREVENTION MEASURES**

Vibram Corp has implemented a number of pollution prevention measures to address the issue of zinc contamination. Zinc is a common component of many of Vibram's products, and the company has recognized the potential environmental risks associated with the release of zinc into the environment. To prevent contamination, Vibram has established a comprehensive program for managing its use of zinc. This includes closely monitoring the use of zinc in its production processes, implementing wastewater treatment systems to remove zinc from industrial effluent, and implementing recycling programs to reuse and reduce the amount of zinc waste. Vibram also works with its suppliers to ensure that the materials it receives are free from zinc contamination. These efforts demonstrate Vibram's commitment to responsible environmental management and its efforts to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment.

2017 Source Reduct Pre field Resear **Preliminary** Outreach/ Assessment

**Waste Management** Zinc Contamination 97.2% recycled

2.8% released

**Source Reduction** Replaced production equipment which increased efficiency and reduced contamination

Air and Water Control Filtration systems Monitoring and data collection Treatment

#### **Source Control**

- Toxin alternatives
  - Monitoring
- Regulation compliance

#### **Employee Impact**

Vibram Corp recognizes that the health and safety of its employees are critical factors in maintaining a positive work environment. The company takes a proactive approach to reduce zinc exposure and contamination in the workplace to ensure the well-being of its workers. Zinc is a heavy metal that can cause significant health issues, when employees are exposed to high levels extended periods of time. Respiratory issues, skin irritation, and neurological effects are some of the common health problems associated with zinc exposure. Vibram Corp understands the potential risks and takes measures to mitigate them. The company implements ventilation systems to reduce airborne zinc levels and provides personal protective equipment to minimize the risk of skin contact with zinc-containing materials.

### Community impact:

Vibram Corp engages with the community and promotes sustainability in a number of ways. The company has implemented a number of environmental and social responsibility initiatives, such as reducing the amount of waste generated by their manufacturing processes, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, and implementing water conservation measures. Vibram also engages with the community through partnerships and sponsorships of events and organizations that promote sustainability and environmental responsibility, such as trail and outdoor recreation groups. Additionally, the company provides educational resources and materials to help raise awareness about sustainability and environmental issues, and encourages its employees to volunteer and participate in local environmental initiatives.