## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM SD

# Specialized Disclosure Report

# The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc.

# (Exact name of the registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	0-23071	31-1241495	
(State of other jurisdiction of	(Commission	(IRS Employer	
incorporation or organization)	File Number)	Identification No.)	
500 Plaza Drive, Secaucus NJ		07094	
(Address of principal executive offices)		(Zip code)	
Bradley Cost, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary		(201) 453-7496	
	(Name and telephone number, including ar	ea code, of the	

person to contact in connection with this report.)

Check the appropriate box to indicate the rule pursuant to which this form is being filed, and provide the period to which the information in this form applies:

Rule 13p-1 under the Securities Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13p-1) for the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2013.

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0697 Expires: May 31, 2016 Estimated average burden hours per response....480.61

#### Section 1 - Conflict Minerals Disclosure

# Item 1.01 Conflict Minerals Disclosure and Report

The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. (the "Company") has filed a Conflict Minerals Report which is attached as an exhibit in Section 2 and is also publicly available under the Investor Relations section of our website at <u>www.childrensplace.com</u>.

# SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this report may contain certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements provide current expectations of future events based on certain assumptions and include any statement that does not directly relate to any historical or current fact. Forward-looking statements can also be identified by words such as "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "predicts," and similar terms. These forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and assumptions of The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. (the "Company") and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in such forward-looking statements. Readers of this Report are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. The inclusion of any statement in this Report does not constitute an admission by the Company or any other person that the events or circumstances described in such statement are material.

#### I. Introduction

Certain of the Company's products contain materials or components that use tin or gold. Due to the depth of the supply chain, the Company is far removed from the sources of ore from which these metals are produced and the smelters/refiners that process those ores; the efforts undertaken to identify the country(ies) or origin of those ores reflect our circumstances and position in the supply chain. The amount of information available globally on the traceability and sourcing of these ores is extremely limited at this time; this situation is not unique to the Company. The efforts were undertaken on the products manufactured for the Company in 2013. The Company does not directly manufacture products but "contracts to manufacture" from its suppliers branded and generic products containing gold or tin.

Direct suppliers to the Company were asked to provide answers to the Supply Chain Compliance Questionnaire adapted from the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition-Global e-Sustainability Initiative (EICC-GeSI) Conflict Minerals Common Reporting Template to reflect the Company's position in the supply chain. The Company believes that the EICC-GeSI Conflict Minerals Common Reporting Template is generally regarded as the most common reporting tool for conflict minerals content and sourcing information worldwide, developed by several of the world's leading consumer electronics brands.

The questionnaires received were reviewed for completeness and consistency of answers. Suppliers were required to provide corrections and clarifications where needed.

As such, we believe our process was reasonably designed and performed in good faith.

# II. Design of Due Diligence Measures

The Company designed its overall conflict minerals procedures based on, and in conformity in all material respects with the five step framework of OECD (2013), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Second Edition, OECD Publishing http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264185050-en and the supplements on tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold, where applicable, including conforming its due diligence process to Steps 3 and 4 of the OECD Guidance to the extent the Company determined them to be applicable to its circumstances and position in the supply chain as a "downstream" company with no direct influence on smelters/refiners.

# III. Due Diligence Measures Performed by the Company

The following are due diligence measures performed by the Company.

- · Communicated the Company's policy on conflict minerals to direct suppliers;
- Reported to senior management on direct suppliers' responses to the Company's conflict minerals information requests, including updates on monitoring and tracking risk mitigation efforts (where applicable);
- Conducted awareness sessions concerning the commitments and requirements expected of the Company's direct suppliers, supported by email and phone dialogues;
- Developed a risk mitigation plan that allows for continued trade with a supplier during the supplier's risk mitigation efforts;
- The Company has found no instance where it was necessary to implement risk mitigation efforts, temporarily suspend trade or disengage with a supplier;
- Supported trade and industry initiatives which encourage the development and implementation of independent third party audits of smelter/refiner's sourcing through policy and procurement practices that encourage suppliers to purchase materials from audited smelters/refiners.

# IV. Product Determination

The Company received no information from its direct suppliers indicating that the facilities at which tin or gold were processed were located in or that the tin or gold originated in, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and its adjoining countries (collectively, the "Covered Countries") or came from recycled or scrap sources. However, in an abundance of caution, we are classifying the subject products that we contract to manufacture as "DRC conflict undeterminable."

# V. Product Description

The products subject to the disclosure are zippers, buckles, rhinestones and sequins reportedly from China and South Korea.

# VI. Steps to Improve Due Diligence

The Company will continue to communicate its expectations and information requirements to the Company's direct suppliers. The Company will also continue to monitor changes in circumstances that may impact the facts or the Company's determination. Over time, the Company anticipates that the amount of information globally on the traceability and sourcing of these ores will increase and improve its knowledge. The Company will continue to make inquiries to the Company's direct suppliers and undertake additional fact and risk assessments where the Company identifies potentially relevant changes in facts or circumstances. The Company will review new suppliers for conflict minerals conformance during initial business reviews. If the Company becomes aware that a Company supplier needs to improve its due diligence process for complying with the Company's conflict minerals policy, the Company intends to continue the trade relationship while that supplier improves its performance. The Company expects its suppliers to take similar measures with their suppliers to ensure alignment throughout the Company's supply chain.

# VII. Independent Private Sector Audit

Not required for calendar year 2013.

# Item 1.02 Exhibit

The Company has filed, as an exhibit to this Form SD, the Conflict Minerals Report required by Item 1.01.

# Section 2 - Exhibit

# Item 1.01 Exhibit

The following exhibit is filed as part of this report.

Exhibit 1.02 Conflict Minerals Report as required by Items 1.01 and 1.02 of this Form.

# SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the duly authorized undersigned.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC.

/s/ Bradley P. Cost

By: Bradley P. Cost Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary June 2, 2014 (Date)

#### THE CHILDREN'S PLACE RETAIL STORES, INC. Conflict Minerals Report For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

## 1. Overview

This report has been prepared by The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries (herein referred to as "The Children's Place," the "Company," "we," "us," or "our") pursuant to Rule 13p-1 (the "Rule") promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc. is the largest pure-play children's specialty apparel retailer in North America. We sell apparel, accessories and footwear for children sizes 0-14. We design, contract to manufacture, and license to sell fashionable, high-quality, value-priced merchandise, the majority of which is under the proprietary "The Children's Place", "Place" and "Baby Place" brand names. Our merchandise is also available online at *www.childrensplace.com*. We conducted a survey of our direct vendors and suppliers and found that small quantities of tin and gold are found in some of our products.

## **Conflict Minerals Policy**

Conflict Minerals are defined as tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold ("3TG"). We have adopted a conflict minerals policy which is publicly available on our website at <a href="http://www.childrensplace.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/en/usstore/content/social-responsibility">http://www.childrensplace.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/en/usstore/content/social-responsibility</a>.

#### **Grievance Mechanism**

We have well established processes to allow interested parties to contact us. These processes are described in the Company's *Policies and Standards for Suppliers* and online at <u>www.reportlineweb.com/thechildrensplace</u>

#### **Supply Chain**

The products that we manufacture are highly complex, typically containing multiple components from many direct suppliers. We have relationships with a vast network of suppliers throughout the world and there are generally multiple tiers between the 3TG mines and our direct suppliers. Therefore, we must rely on our direct suppliers to work with their upstream suppliers in order that they may provide us with accurate information about the origin of 3TG in the components used by our direct suppliers in our products. Because of the complexity and size of our supply chain, we developed a risk-based approach that focused on our direct suppliers, as well as suppliers that we believed were likely to provide us with components containing 3TG which could have originated from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and its adjoining countries (collectively, the "Covered Countries").

We requested that all identified suppliers provide information to us regarding 3TG and smelters using the template developed by the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition® (EICC®) and The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI), known as the EICC-GeSI Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (the "Template"). The Template was developed to facilitate disclosure and communication of information regarding smelters and refiners that provide material to a manufacturer's supply chain. It includes questions regarding a direct supplier's conflict-free policy, its due diligence process, and information about its supply chain such as the names and locations of smelters and refiners as well as the origin of 3TG used by those facilities.

## Efforts to Determine Mine or Location of Origin

We have determined that requesting our suppliers to complete the Template represents our reasonable best efforts to determine the mines or locations of origin of 3TG in our supply chain. We have reached this conclusion in part as a result of our active participation in trade and apparel and footwear industry associations which actively participate in the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative (CFSI) an initiative of EICC and GeSI, the International Tin Research Institute Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi), and the OECD 3T and gold pilot implementation programs.

# Smelters or Refiners and Country of Origin of 3TG

Certain of our suppliers indicated that certain components they provided to us contained tin or gold that did not come from the Covered Countries. The suppliers from which we requested information indicated in their responses that the information provided was at a company level and did not include a list of smelters. The Company received no information from its direct suppliers indicating that the facilities at which the tin or gold were processed were located in, or that the tin or gold originated, in the Covered Countries, or came from recycled or scrap sources. However, in an abundance of caution, we are classifying the subject products that we contract to manufacture as "DRC conflict undeterminable."

#### Conclusion

After exercising the due diligence described in this report, we concluded that our products are "DRC conflict undeterminable," as defined in Rule 13p-1 (17 CFR 240.13p-1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Rule").

# 2. Due Diligence

#### A. Design of Due Diligence

Our due diligence measures have been designed to conform, in all material respects, with the due diligence framework presented by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the publication OECD (2013) Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Second Edition, OECD Publishing http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264185050-en (OECD Guidance) and the related Supplements for gold and for tin, tantalum and tungsten.

#### **B.** Due Diligence Performed

#### **MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

We have adopted a conflict minerals policy related to our sourcing of 3TG.

#### **Internal Team**

We have established a management system to support supply chain due diligence related to 3TG. Our management system includes a project task force sponsored by the Senior Vice President – Global Sourcing, and a team of associates from cross-functional business functions such as vendor management, finance, legal, and corporate social responsibility. This team is responsible for implementing our Conflict Minerals compliance strategy.

# **Control systems**

We do not have a direct relationship with 3TG smelters and refiners. We do, however, participate, together with other major apparel and footwear retailers, through trade and industry associations which engage with other sectors in the following industry-wide initiatives to develop conflict-free supply chains: the Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition-Global e-Sustainability Initiative's Conflict Free Sourcing Program, the iTSCi and the Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA).

Controls include a company-wide Business Code of Conduct that outlines expected behaviors for all our associates and a Supplier Code of Conduct that outlines expected behavior and working conditions for our vendors and suppliers, including a Conflict Minerals requirement that suppliers provide us with information about the source of 3TG.

#### **Maintain records**

We have established a records retention policy to ensure that relevant materials are preserved for appropriate periods.

## **Supplier Engagement**

We have a Vendor Administration team which is responsible for engaging with our vendors and suppliers to exchange supply chain related information. We have also sent multiple communications directly to our suppliers regarding our conflict minerals policy. Additionally, we participate in industry and trade association initiatives, including webinars, which direct suppliers to resources related to Conflict Minerals, including FAQs from industry trade associations and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

# **IDENTIFY AND ASSESS RISK IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

#### Design and Implement a Strategy to Respond to Risks

- Survey Responses We conducted a survey of our direct vendors and suppliers of trim components used on The Children's Place products. We
  reviewed the responses to determine which vendors or suppliers required further engagement. Further enquiries were conducted where responses
  were incomplete, or where we found inconsistencies within the data reported. We worked directly with these vendors or suppliers in an effort to
  secure revised responses. All suppliers confirmed that they had no reason to believe 3TG contained in the components supplied to all of their
  customers originated from the Covered Countries.
- Senior management is briefed about our due diligence efforts.
- We have adopted a conflict minerals policy, and communicated our policy to our direct vendors and suppliers.
- We have developed a risk mitigation plan that allows for continued trade with a supplier during the supplier's risk mitigation efforts. We will engage in regular ongoing risk assessment through our suppliers' annual data submissions.
- We found no instance where it was necessary to implement risk mitigation efforts, temporarily suspend trade or disengage with a supplier.

# CARRY OUT INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY AUDIT OF SUPPLY CHAIN DUE DILIGENCE AT IDENTIFIED POINTS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

We do not have a direct relationship with 3TG smelters and refiners and therefore do not perform or direct audits of these entities.

# **REPORT ON SUPPLY CHAIN DUE DILIGENCE**

This Conflict Minerals Report constitutes our annual report on our 3TG due diligence, is available on our website www.childrensplace.com and is filed with the SEC.

# 3. Steps to be taken to mitigate risk

We intend to take the following steps to improve the due diligence conducted to further mitigate the risk that the 3TG in our products finance or benefit armed groups in the Covered Countries:

- Continue our engagement with vendors and suppliers and direct them to information and training resources in order to increase the response rate and
  improve the content of the supplier survey responses;
- Work through the relevant industry associations to encourage participation in initiatives such as the CFSI to expand the smelters and refiners
  participating in the Conflict Free Smelter Program;
- Encourage any suppliers if found to be providing us with components or materials containing 3TG from sources that support conflict in the Covered Countries to establish an alternative source of 3TG that does not support such conflict; and
- Work with the relevant trade associations to encourage collaboration with the OECD to define and improve best practices and encourage responsible sourcing of 3TG.

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