



# FOOTWEAR SUPPLY CHAIN AND SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS

**SGS**

## INTRODUCTION

Footwear companies are fast waking up to the value of implementing sustainable and environmentally aware business practices across their supply chains to reduce the ecological impact of their business operations, whilst boosting customer loyalty and revenue.

Growing consumer demand for more sustainable products, boosted by increasing numbers of millennials and Gen-Z consumers prioritising sustainability, is increasingly being felt by footwear brands.

Sustainability has traditionally been a challenge for the footwear industry as shoes typically contain materials that are hard to separate and decompose and may also use harmful chemicals during production. Yet with the innovations occurring in textile development, manufacturing and supply chain management, footwear brands are increasingly able to position themselves as leaders in the sustainable market.

SGS has the expertise and the industrial knowledge to help you take the first steps towards your corporate sustainability commitments, meet consumer demand and increase the desirability of your products.

### SPECIALISED FOOTWEAR PRODUCT TESTING SERVICES FOOTWEAR PRODUCT TESTING

Physical, chemical & safety testing for finished footwear and components, based on defined standards, regulations and client requirements, to give you confidence about the conditions and performance of your footwear products.

- Adhesive strength - toe, middle, heel
- Toe bonding strength
- Flexing endurance
- Tensile strength
- Sole skid/slip resistance
- Water penetration resistance



### SUSTAINABILITY DRIVES BUSINESS INNOVATION & VALUE

In committing to becoming more transparent, secure and efficient, we recognise that brands, retailers and their supply chains face an increasing number of challenges.

Our supply chain and sustainability solutions consider the environmental and social impact of operations as well as product life cycle thinking, from the selection of raw material and use of technologically innovative production methods to retailing and disposal of the end product.

We put product safety, quality, functionality and value for money, as well as the environmentally and socially sustainable production of footwear products, at the heart of our service. From VOCs issues with adhesives, excessive chromium VI in leather or risk of phthalates in plastic accessories in children's footwear to the environmental management of production facilities and workers' occupational health & safety, we're here to support you every step of the way.

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

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## CHROMIUM VI TESTING

Chromium VI poses significant risk to human health and its presence in leather products prevents their sale in many parts of the world. Our testing and prevention services range from component and final product chromium VI testing to accelerated ageing chromium VI testing. In addition, our chromium VI audit provides you with an assessment of where chromium VI may be produced in your facilities and recommends the necessary steps to reduce its formation.

## FOOTWEAR OPERATIONAL OPTIMIZATION TECHNICAL SERVICE (FOOTS)

Be more competitive with SGS FOOTS – an analytical tool that helps organizations to proactively identify root causes and implement solutions. A quality management system is the bedrock of good business, but it needs ongoing effort and improvement. With analysis options for every stage of production, SGS FOOTS delivers clarity from pre-order to post-production and the opportunity to create a culture of ongoing improvement.

## MOULD PREVENTION

Mould growth is one of the most significant and potentially costly issues within the leather and footwear supply chains and its prevention in the manufacturing site, storage and packing area is crucial for footwear industries.

Our On-Site Mould Prevention Assessment measures and evaluates the moisture content, humidity and ventilation of your manufacturing site, storage and packing areas; assess mould management, general housekeeping and monitoring of packaging materials and make recommendations to facilitate continuous improvement. We also offer Mould Prevention Awareness Training for your workforce and Mould Prevention Related Testing services to give you greater understanding of mould related issues on products and raw materials.

## PPE FOOTWEAR TESTING

Testing of protective and safety footwear according to national and international standards, incorporating safety toecaps and under-foot protection; with additional testing capability against other physical risks, such as cutting by chainsaws or environmental hazards associated with chemicals, heat and electricity.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SOLUTION

Acting on behalf of buyers worldwide, we help to reduce your sourcing risks by verifying manufacturers' capability to meet contract requirements for quality, quantity and delivery terms to ensure engagement in lawful, humane and ethical manufacturing.

## TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY

Delivered by footwear experts within our global technical platform, our consultancy offers you product specification support at pre-production stage, technical requirements advice for accessing emerging markets, and store returns.

## VOC SERVICE

Chemicals used in the manufacturing of footwear product usually contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). Products and Packaging Materials may emit VOC from the Chemical Residues which could constitute health risk to the workers in the supply chain and consumers. We can offer on-site sampling and testing, upstream VOC control solution, root cause analysis and awareness training services in tackling the challenges.

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## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Our testing, inspection and certification services can verify product compliance with one or more regulation, for as many markets as you require, such as:

- Canada: CCPSA
- China: Product Standards
- EU: REACH, Restricted Substances, SVHCs & Directive 89/686/EEC for PPE
- Korea: KC Mark Regulations
- Taiwan: CNS Regulations
- US: CPSIA, California Proposition 65, plus Washington State's CHCC

## ACCREDITATIONS

Our laboratories are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, accredited by the CPSC for testing against CPSIA requirements, and an EU notified body (0120) under the PPE Directive for Article 10 & 11 Certification. Our inspection services are ISO 17020 accredited, and our audit services ISO 17021 accredited. We are qualified to test according to wide range of national and international standards, including:

- China: GB, GB/T, HG/T, QB/T
- France: NF
- Germany: DIN, LFGB
- UK: BS
- USA: AATCC and ASTM
- International: ISO, CEN, EN

## WHY CHOOSE SGS?

We use the very latest technology in our testing equipment, administered by a team of experts in our specialist laboratories. We work alongside you, listening to your specific needs, to provide you with the data and proof that you require for your customers. Combining global expertise with local knowledge, we provide advice on how to improve the performance of your products to not only meet the appropriate standards but to exceed the expectations from today's consumers.

## CONTACT US

Contact the Global Softlines Development Office today to discuss your specific requirements.  
Email: [Global.SL@sgs.com](mailto:Global.SL@sgs.com)

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