

A young child is walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk. The child is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, bright yellow pants, and a woven hat. The child is holding the hand of an adult whose arm is visible on the right. The background shows a railing and lush green trees, suggesting an outdoor park or boardwalk setting. The lighting is warm and golden, indicating late afternoon or early morning.

intertek

Total Quality. Assured.

SOFTLINES

# COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FOOTWEAR AND LEATHERGOODS

Weaving quality into your clothing, textiles and footwear

# TOTAL QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE FOR FOOTWEAR AND LEATHERGOODS

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Intertek's extensive test capabilities enable our clients to proactively evaluate their footwear at all stages of development and production.

## Regulatory requirements

Over the years, an increasing number of international, regional and national regulations have been put in place to protect consumers' safety. It is your obligation to ensure the compliance of your footwear and leathersgoods, be it component or chemical safety. At Intertek, we have comprehensive solutions for you.

## Chemical management

Considerable amounts of chemicals are involved in the manufacturing of your footwear and leathersgoods. It has become crucial to monitor and control the usage of chemical in the production cycle in accordance with states and federal Restricted Substances List and EU REACH regulations as many of the chemicals have been deemed to be harmful to the environment and humans. While lead, nickel, azo dyes, chromium VI, formaldehyde and PFOS/PFOA are most commonly involved, nearly 100 substances on the list need to be closely monitored – so here, you can count on Intertek.

## Quality matters

When your heel breaks, so does your brand's image. Durability, level of comfort and functionality add unparalleled values to your footwear and leather products and thus enhance customer loyalty. Our innovative and professional performance solutions allow you to inject quality into every single part of your footwear and leathersgoods, from outsole materials, shoelaces and heels to lining materials.

Did you know ... Intertek is accredited to offer testing and certification of

**Safety Footwear**

and other Personal Protective Equipment per EU CE Mark (Category II).



# COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY FROM HEAD TO TOE

We cover the entire spectrum of footwear for all ages and purposes, as well as small leathersgoods, including handbags, suitcases, belts, purses and wallets, etc. Our services help ensure compliance with the ever-increasing number of regulations controlling hazardous and restricted substances used during and after production.

## Regulatory solutions

- Flammability testing
- Labelling recommendations and consultation
- Safety design review




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**45+** laboratories

operating 24/7  
in 5 continents

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Intertek offers a diverse range of chemical testing services and consultation on leather products that involve heavy consumption of chemicals.

#### Chemical solutions

##### Chromium (VI)

Chromium (VI) is mainly an undesirable by-product generated during the leather tanning process when chrome tanning is employed. Subsequent warehousing and transportation may lead to higher levels of Chromium (VI). It is a strong oxidant and is classified as a carcinogen that needs to be controlled.

##### Dimethylfumarate (DMFU)

Dimethylfumarate is a volatile compound classified as irritating and harmful for the skin, eyes, mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract through simple contact, inhalation or ingestion. This substance is used as a fungicide to prevent mould forming that may deteriorate leather, furniture, footwear or leather accessories during storage or transportation, and may be used in desiccant sachets.

##### Nickel

Nickel is found in alloys used for metal accessories on garments such as buttons, zippers and rivets. Some people are allergic to nickel and may experience serious skin irritation when in contact with nickel-containing accessories for an extended period.

##### Polycyclic Aromatics Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, or PAHs, are a group of chemicals that are formed during the burning of coal, oil, gas, refuse and tobacco. PAHs occur naturally or can be man-made. They have been classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction.

##### Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

A Volatile Organic Compound, or "VOC", is defined as an organic solvent that can evaporate at ambient temperatures. This is a broad definition that covers a wide range of chemicals. For the textiles and leather industries, these VOCs are typically used in printing inks, paints, glues and cleaning agents. Due to their volatility, they are emitted either directly or indirectly into air in many production processes. The emission of volatile organic compounds causes pollution to the environment and depletion of the ozone layer. Numerous health hazards are associated with these products.

# PERFORMANCE TESTING TO ENSURE QUALITY AND COMFORT



**Whole shoe**

- Component attachment strength
- Flexing resistance
- Slip resistance
- Sole bond strength
- Water penetration

**Insole board**

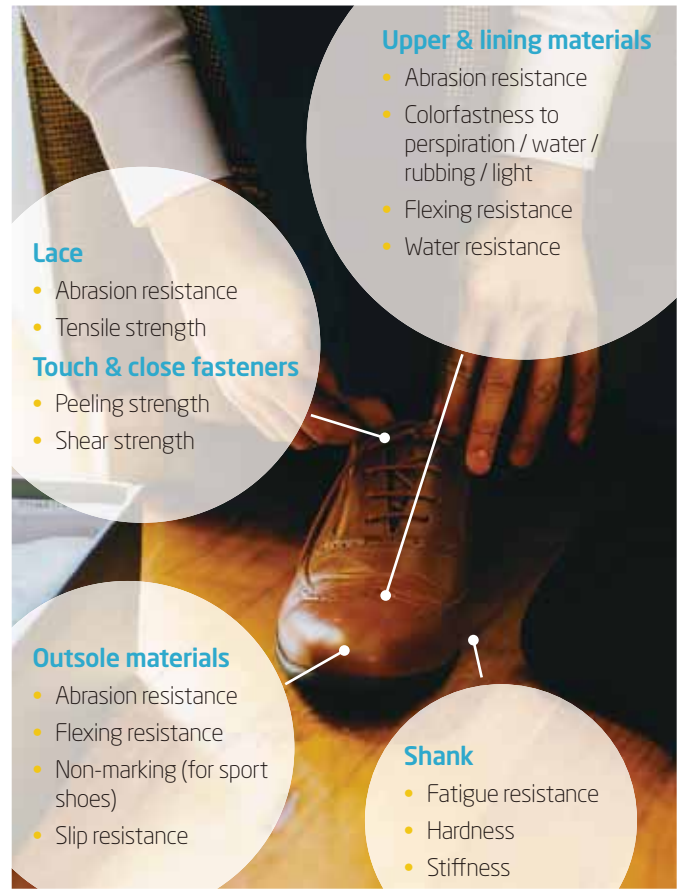
- Abrasion resistance
- Flex index
- Transverse tensile strength
- Water absorption and desorption

**Top piece**

- Abrasion resistance
- Slip resistance

**Heel**

- Fatigue resistance
- Impact resistance



**Upper & lining materials**

- Abrasion resistance
- Colorfastness to perspiration / water / rubbing / light
- Flexing resistance
- Water resistance

**Lace**

- Abrasion resistance
- Tensile strength

**Touch & close fasteners**

- Peeling strength
- Shear strength

**Outsole materials**

- Abrasion resistance
- Flexing resistance
- Non-marking (for sport shoes)
- Slip resistance

**Shank**

- Fatigue resistance
- Hardness
- Stiffness



**Bags, handbags and backpacks**

- Abrasion resistance
- Dynamic loading
- Handle strength
- Seam strength
- Shoulder strap strength
- Tensile / tear strength
- Water / oil / soil spot
- Whole bag storage
- Zipper strength



**Fashion accessories**

- Colourfastness to rubbing / migration / perspiration / water
- Corrosion resistance
- Flexing resistance
- Print adhesion performance
- Pull strength performance
- Tarnishing of metal components performance



### Fit assessment

Often overlooked, shoe fit is crucial to both sales and consumer health. Our trained and qualified shoe fitters can assist clients in fit assessment, size assessment, fitting panels and even make recommendations for improving shoe fit for global markets. Our fitting experts are available to assess your full range of shoes for all ages, including small children.

### Footwear consultation

With our experts serving various multinational brands and retailers, Intertek offers mindful advice and consultations to your footwear business ranging from quality assurance system reviews, manual writing, test report analysis, technical support and testing training for technologists and buyers, factory in-house laboratory audit and due diligence support.

### Functionality of footwear RFID/tag

It is more common today for retailers to implant RFID tags in footwear to track production cycle and customer loyalty. Intertek has developed a new testing capability to test the functionality of RFID chips against heat, repeated compression at the chip placement and repeated flexing of soles for such new trends. Tailored solutions can also be offered to you.



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