Comprehensive solutions for your footwear, leathergoods and personal protective equipment

Weaving quality into your clothing, textiles and footwear
What are the challenges for your footwear and leathergoods?

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 leathergoods, be it component or chemical safety. At Intertek, we have comprehensive solutions for you. Below are just some of the many regulations currently in force around the world.

CANADA

- Stuffed Article Labeling: Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Regulations
- Flammability: Textile Flammability Regulations (SOR/2011-22)
- Chemical:
  - Restriction of Lead and Mercury Content for Children’s Products
  - Restriction of TDBPP and TCEP (Flame Retardants)
  - Canada Consumer Product Safety Act

US

- Leather Labeling: 16 CFR 24 Guides for Select Leather and Imitation Leather Products
- Fur Labeling: 16 CFR 301 Rules and Regulations under Fur Products Labeling Act
- CPSIA: Restriction of Lead Content for Children’s Products and Tracking Label Requirement for Children’s Products
- Chemical: California Proposition 65

EU

- Footwear Labeling: Directive 94/11/EC Labeling of Materials Used in the Main Components of Footwear
- Chemical: Refer to REACH Regulation No. 1907/2006 Annex XVII

CHINA

- Leather and Fur Products: GB 20400-2006 Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Leather and Fur
- Steel Shanks: GB 28011-2011 Shanks for Footwear
- Safety Requirement for Children’s Footwear: Safety Technical Specifications for Children’s Footwear GB 30585-2014 (Effective from 1 Jan 2016)
- Vulcanised Rubber Shoes: GB 25038-2010 Rubber Shoes Health and Safety Specification
- Quality of Footwear Products: Various product standards claimed in the labelling

AUSTRALIA

- Footwear Labeling
  - Australian Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905
  - Commerce Import Regulations, Regulation 15B
- Chemical: Australian Consumer Law of Competition and Consumer Act 2010

Chemical Management

Considerable amounts of chemicals are involved in the manufacturing of your footwear and leathergoods. It has become crucial to monitor and control the usage of chemical in the production cycle in accordance with the Restricted Substances List and REACH regulations as many of the chemicals have been deemed to be harmful to the environment and to 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 us.

Quality Matters

When your heel breaks, so does your brand’s image. Durability, level of comfort and functionality add unparalleled value 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 leather goods, from outsole materials, shoelaces, and heels to lining materials.
How can Intertek address your challenges?

We cover the entire spectrum of footwear for all ages and purposes, as well as small leathergoods, including handbags, suitcases, belts, purses and wallets, etc. Taking our services to the next level, fashion accessories, protective footwear, shin guards and safety gloves are also included in our solutions portfolio.

Regulatory Solutions

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

Chemical Solutions

Intertek offers a diverse range of chemical testing services and consultation on leather products that involve heavy consumption of chemicals. These services can help ensure compliance with the ever-increasing number of regulations controlling hazardous and restricted substances used during and after production.

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 to 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 and may be used in dessicant 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. For the leather industry, 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.

Mould Prevention Factory Assessment Solution
Mould is a fungal micro-organism that can spread over long distances in the form of a spore. It is commonly found in textile and leather products. Mould is a frequent cause of financial loss to shipments undergoing long transportation times, and has become a major safety issue in leading import markets as well. Since the use of anti-mould agents has been restricted, we have leveraged our expertise in chemical testing and management to create the Mould Prevention Factory Assessment Solution, which allows you to take preventative measures against mould formation and assure quality at every production point.
Performance Testing

**VELCRO**
- Peeling Strength
- Shear Strength

**TOP PIECE**
- Abrasion Resistance
- Slip Resistance

**OUTSOLE MATERIALS**
- Flexing Resistance
- Abrasion Resistance
- Non-marking
- Slip Resistance

**ELASTIC**
- Repeated Resistance
- Limit of Useful Extension

**METAL**
- Corrosion Resistance

**INSOLE BOARD**
- Flex Index
- Water Absorption and Desorption

**HEEL**
- Impact Resistance
- Fatigue Resistance

**UPPER & LINING MATERIALS**
- Flexing Resistance
- Martindale Abrasion Resistance
- Colourfastness To Crocking
- Colourfastness To Perspiration

**LACE**
- Tensile Strength
- Abrasion Resistance

**SHANK**
- Stiffness
- Hardness

**WHOLE SHOE**
- Flexing Resistance
- Sole Bond Strength
- Component Attachment Strength
- Slip Resistance

**Handle Strength Test**
- Zipper Strength Test
- Shoulder Strength Test
- Water / Oil / Soil Spot Test
- Abrasion Test

**Colourfastness Test to Crocking, Migration, Perspiration of Water**
- Print Adhesion Test
- Whole Bag Storage Test

**Handle Strength Test**
- Seam Strength Test
- Shoulder Strength Test
- Dynamic Loading
- Static Test
- Tensile Tear Strength Test

**Pull Strength Test**
- Tarnishing of Metal Components Test
- Corrosion Resistance
- Flexing Resistance
CE Marking Certification for Safety Footwear, Protective Gloves and Shin Guards

1. Select harmonized standards
2. Testing of footwear
3. Compile Technical File
4. Complete ‘Declaration of Conformity’
5. Submit Technical File for assessment to Official Notified Body
6. Attach the CE Mark to products according to regulations in force

- Steel Toe Compression
- Anti-puncture, etc.
- EN407 Small Splashes of Molten Metal Resistance
- EN407 Burning Behaviour
- EN407 Convective Heat
- EN388 Blade Cut Resistance
- Blunt Impact
- Stud Impact – Horizontal Cone
- Stud Impact – Vertically Inclined Cone

Professional Solutions for Footwear

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 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, and factory in-house laboratory audit to due-diligence support.

Wear Trials
There is no substitute for wearing the product in its intended environment. Intertek has panels of wearers of various profiles and ages, capable of assessing a variety of footwear. Independent wear-trial evaluations by technical experts allow the footwear to be monitored throughout its trial period and unbiased results to be recorded and reported in a professional and user-friendly manner.

Functionality of Footwear RFID/Tag
It is common 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.
Intertek is the testing, inspection and certification industry leader with over 38,000 people in 1,000 locations in over 100 countries. We possess strong capacities and capabilities in various industries, serving customers of all profiles and sizes. Visit www.intertek.com to learn more.

Your local representative

Regional Contact

CHINA
+86 400 886 9926
china.softlines@intertek.com

FRANCE
+33 (0) 2-32-63-31-45
france.softlines@intertek.com

GERMANY
+49-911-74075-0
germany.softlines@intertek.com

HONG KONG
+852-2173-8239
hongkong.softlines@intertek.com

INDIA
+91-124-4503400
india.softlines@intertek.com

UK
+44-1942-265-700
uk.softlines@intertek.com

US
+1 800 WORLDLAB (967 5352)
northamerica.softlines@intertek.com

Contact us today to enhance your footwear and leathergoods.