



ECOSECURE PRODUCT MARK FOOTWEAR CERTIFICATION





CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

Today's consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about the potentially harmful impact of chemicals that are used in consumer products such as footwear. In view of concerns about environmental and public exposures to restricted substances, many national regulations have been issued to restrict or prohibit such chemicals. Since the introduction of REACH regulations in the EU and CPSIA and CA Prop 65 in the US, requirements on restricted substances present in the end consumer products are progressively becoming more stringent. Other emerging markets such as China, Taiwan and Korea also have recently rolled out consumer safety legislations, making it a challenge for the footwear industry to comply with all necessary requirements around the world. Furthermore, pressures also are exerted from many non-governmental organisations that increasingly call upon companies to demonstrate the safety of their products, particularly regarding chemical contents. Harmful chemicals can pose a grave threat to both people and the environment. The presence of hazardous substances or allergenic compounds in a product might result in a recall case that would be damaging to a company's brand image and reputation. With all these challenges, how can companies limit and reduce the business risk of product noncompliance?

OUR SOLUTION

In order to win business in today's competitive marketplace, manufacturers of global footwear brands are differentiating their products through fashionable design, great functionality, value for money and at the same time showing a high level of compliance to consumer safety. As such, the footwear industry needs to ensure that the production of safe to use and environmentally safe products are part of their everyday business solution. SGS has solutions which will help you to comply with the necessary requirements, position you above the competition and respond more accurately to your needs.

ECOSECURE PRODUCT MARK

SGS ECOSECURE programme provides our clients with a reliable method to demonstrate that their footwear products are environmentally friendly and will not contain chemicals that might contribute to human health problems or allergic skin reactions. The programme encourages the implementation of strict quality assurance on incoming materials and chemicals related to the manufacturing processes. Strict QA on incoming products will help eliminate high risk restricted substances and avoid any contamination during the manufacturing process.



WHAT IS ECOSECURE?

SGS ECOSECURE is a product certification scheme which will help differentiate your footwear products from those of your competitors. This scheme will provide assurance that certified products are free from restricted hazardous substances and will enable your products to conform to the strict regulatory and green market requirements and consumers' expectations.

THE MARK THAT PROVES YOUR PRODUCT'S COMPLIANCE

SGS ECOSECURE is based on a dual assurance system consisting of on-site factory auditing and product testing, with a strict monitoring system to ensure the continuous compliance of the certified products.



ON-SITE FACTORY AUDITING

Modern footwear industries are complex due to the nature and sophistication of the production chain. Intense competition, both nationally and globally, has focused a new spotlight on quality management, especially on chemical use. Numerous chemicals used during production, including surfactants, adhesives, pigments, polymers, finishing agents, etc, may carry a very high risk for the health of the workers, the consumer and the environment. Risk control and management throughout the supply chain thus is important in order to diminish the risk that the final product may have on public health and environmental safety.

Factory system review, verification of documents, operational control and assessment of raw material suppliers are all critical elements of a strict quality assurance system. SGS ECOSECURE also considers management of incoming materials including chemical substances and chemical associated processes to be a vital part of that strict quality assurance system. Evaluation mechanisms for new components and suppliers should be established to ensure no restricted chemical substances that may pose a threat in the finished products will enter the production line.

PRODUCT TESTING

The technical criteria of ECOSECURE are based on a unified and integrated approach to global product requirements and regulations. By embracing requirements of worldwide consumer product regulations, recognised industrial standards and chemical specifications of the major buyers in the market, this concept provides a high accountability for reliable quality assurance.

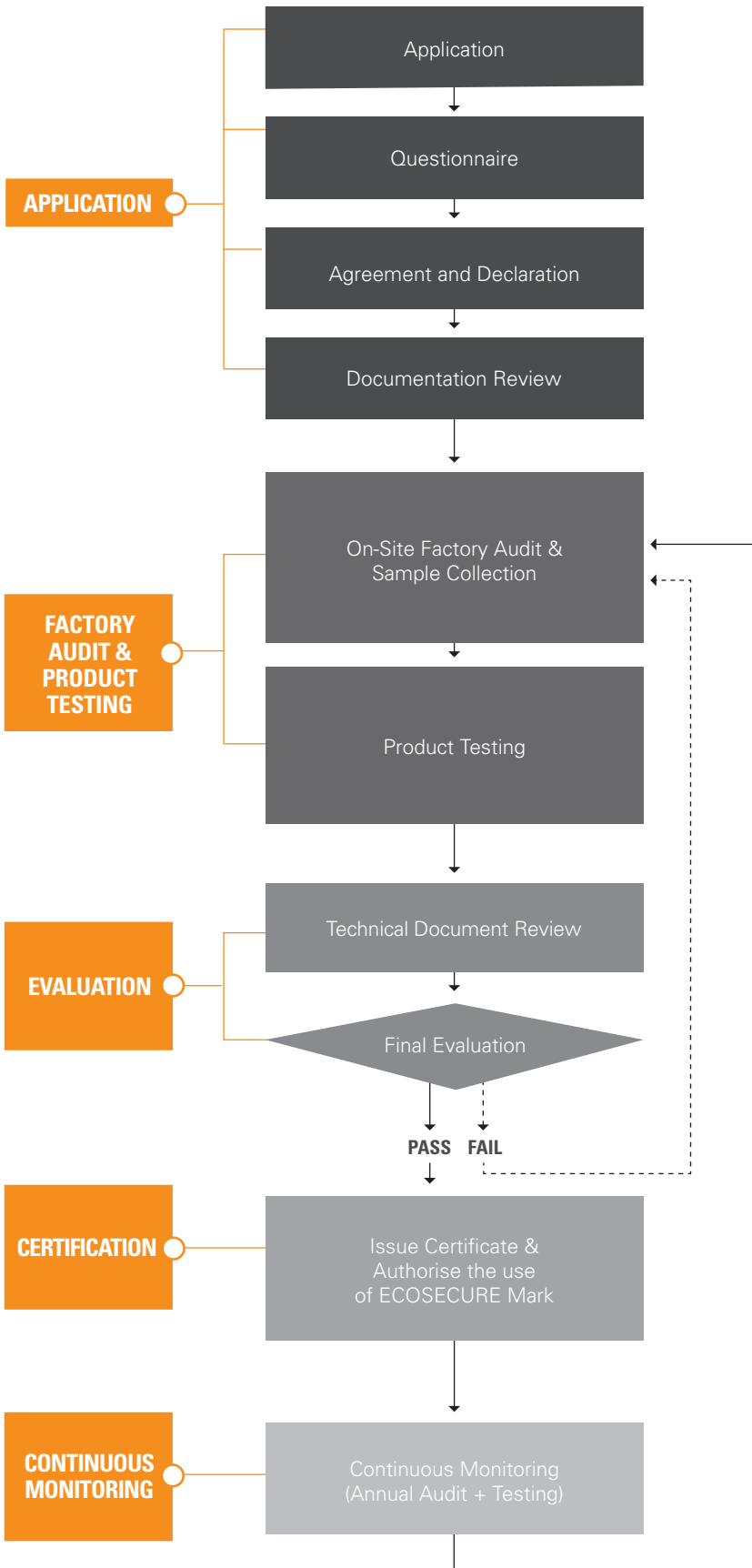
SGS ECOSECURE bases its stringent requirements for each product category on an assessment of the impact on consumer health and the environment, taking into consideration the use of materials, chemicals and manufacturing processes. The ECOSECURE mark is awarded only to those products which satisfy all of the certification requirements.

STRICT MONITORING SYSTEM

SGS ECOSECURE will maintain a strict monitoring system to ensure all certified products continually comply with the certification requirements. Certificate and the mark approval will be suspended if the product quality is queried. Annual factory audits and the evaluation of the certified products will be conducted within the valid period of the certificates. In order to enhance the system transparency and traceability, an online certificate tracking system has been developed to allow consumers to acquire information about all certified products.

ECOSECURE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

ECOSECURE CERTIFICATION PROCESS FLOW



STEPS TO OBTAIN THE ECOSECURE MARK FOR YOUR PRODUCTS

STEP 1: APPLICATION & DOCUMENT REVIEW

Once the client submits the application for the ECOSECURE mark, a questionnaire will be sent to the applicant in order to collect the background information of the applicant and the product. The agreement and declaration documents must be signed and product specifications and relevant information have to be submitted before the plant visit and product testing can be arranged.

STEP 2: ON-SITE FACTORY AUDIT

A plant visit will be arranged with the applicant. SGS auditors will notify the factory if corrective actions have to be taken to rectify any noncomplying procedures. After the factory makes the corrections and implements them for at least one month, a follow-up visit will be arranged. If the result of the plant visit(s) fulfils the defined requirements, product testing will take place to ensure that the products comply with the defined product quality regarding restricted substances. Raw materials or finished product samples will be collected on-site during the successful plant visit and submitted for product testing.

STEP 3: PRODUCT TESTING

Testing will be based on defined chemical test parameters with reference to world-wide regulations and market requirements. If the test results are not acceptable, corrective actions will be given and a follow-up visit will also be arranged to review the manufacturing system and to randomly collect samples for product retesting.

STEP 4: EVALUATION

Both audit and test results will be evaluated by the ECOSECURE Certification Centre. The applicant may need to submit further documents upon request to complete the evaluation process.

STEP 5: CERTIFICATION

The certificate and the ECOSECURE mark will be granted if results of both the factory audits and product testing are satisfactory and approved by the Certification Centre.



CONTACT US

SGS ECOSECURE will help differentiate your products and strengthen your competitiveness in the footwear industry by projecting a safety and eco-friendly image and building consumers' confidence.

To learn more about ECOSECURE, please visit

www.sgs.com/ecosecure

or contact our representatives for more information.

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WHY DO YOU NEED AN ECOSECURE PRODUCT MARK?

An ECOSECURE product has an increased value to consumers by meeting high levels of environmental and consumer product safety requirements, thus assuring a high level of protection against skin allergies and environmentally harmful substances. The SGS ECOSECURE mark can assist you in building an exclusive brand image, promoting your reputation and, sharpening your competitive edge in today's market place.

- Enhance brand image
- Risk of allergic reactions from certain chemicals can be minimised
- Minimize the risk for product recalls
- Improve product quality through continuous monitoring system

WHY CHOOSE SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 70,000 employees, we operate a network of more than 1,350 offices and laboratories around the world.

SGS Global Softlines has an extensive network of over 30 laboratories worldwide, with a strong team of committed professionals from multi-disciplinary backgrounds. Our internationally accredited state-of-the-art testing laboratories offer a comprehensive range of physical, chemical and functional testing services for components, materials and finished products. We help your company ensure quality, performance and compliance with international, industrial and regulatory standards worldwide. We understand sustainability is an integral part of doing businesses. With our global reach, local market knowledge and harmonised approach, brands, retailers & manufacturers trust us to deliver hassle-free, safe and expedient solutions throughout the textile and footwear supply chain, from raw materials to finished products on the shelf. Discover more at www.sgs.com/softlines

With locations close to sourcing countries including Hong Kong, China, India, Vietnam and Turkey etc., we offer you the convenience of global coverage with competence to provide ECOSECURE service to fit your needs.

SGS ECOSECURE GLOBAL SERVICE CENTRES



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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

