



SGS FOOTWEAR OPERATIONAL OPTIMIZATION TECHNICAL SERVICE (FOOTS™)

PROACTIVELY IDENTIFY WAYS TO ENHANCE OUTPUT

Sustainability – it's at the heart of every business. In the softlines sector, sustainability reaches across the supply chain, but starts in the factory.

Looking beyond the obvious, taking stock of the detail and fine tuning the way raw materials are handled and stocked, the way factories operate, and the process of mass manufacture can lead to significant gains.

Mass production is fraught with risk. Can a factory delivery on time? To specification? Is everything ready to go? And, once production starts who checks everything is going to plan?

The concept of 'quality' dates back to the Industrial Revolution when the creation of goods, most likely made single-handedly by just one person, were now being made by teams, and for the first time in history, put into mass production.

The softlines sector has come a long way since then, but the importance of quality is still paramount to success in business today.

A Quality Management System is the gold standard – collating details of a business's processes, documents and resources so that they are aligned with objectives and customer expectations. But, for companies wanting to stay ahead of the competition and enhance their delivery, there is another important addition to their QMS continuous improvement.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Continuous improvement processes, are ongoing and seek to improve on what a company is currently doing, aiming to find anything from incremental changes to breakthrough discoveries.

Looking more closely at the softlines sector, the obvious part of the business to consider, to find those

exposed chinks that need fixing, are in the technical specifications and pre and on-line production processes. Our Footwear Operational Optimization Technical Service (FOOTS™) provides a suite of analytical tools to clearly define any issues, from maintenance and operational process to data analysis.

FOOTS™ SERVICES

To achieve continuous improvement SGS offers inspection services that can be integrated into a quality management system.



SGS FOOTWEAR OPERATIONAL OPTIMIZATION TECHNICAL SERVICE (FOOTS™)

TECHNICAL FACTORY ASSESSMENT

When: Before a buyer places a purchase order with a factory

At this stage, an evaluation of a garment/footwear manufacturer's factory's capabilities and capacities can be carried out in order to estimate whether it can fulfill the buyer's specification. The evaluation should consider a comprehensive range of criteria including quality of the final output, packaging and marking specifications, capacities of productions, etc. and to assess basic quality management procedures, such as:

- Factory facilities/equipment/employee breakdown list
- Factory quality control procedures
 - Incoming material quality control
 - Factory QA/QC program/On-spot inspection
 - Metal control & sharp objects control
 - Mold prevention control
- Factory main production processes quality control
 - Production process control
 - Special requirement
 - On-spot inspection (IQC capability)



PRODUCTION REDINESS CHECK

When: Before mass production begins

This is designed to assess the technical readiness of products before mass production begins, helping to preempt any issues and reduce wasted time and expense.

- Risk assessment
 - Visibility to unauthorized sub-contracting
 - Materials inspections ensuring the correct specified materials have been purchased
 - Shoe last checking, shoes fitting and sizing
 - Ensures approval samples match production
 - Prevents shipping delays and lost sales by resolving issues prior to product inspection
- Open communication
 - Equal oversight for all vendors
 - Drives global consistency

ONSITE PRODUCTION CONTROL

When: At the beginning of each stage of production

Evaluation at the beginning of each part of the mass production process should be implemented in order to confirm the quality of production. The quality management '5M1E' method, namely Material, Machine, Man, Method, Measurement and Environmental is commonly used at this stage. The checks should consist of:

- Site verification
 - Ensures factories have capacity and capability to produce ordered shoes
 - Production process – key process technology constant/worker onsite operation level/semi-finished product inspection
 - Onsite testing – depending on specific product
 - Why & CAPA – field investigation for root cause and make corrective and preventive action (CAPA)
- Inhouse verification
 - Finished goods (FG) – checking as per acceptance quality limit (AQL) criteria and approved sample, conduct an onsite mini sample size visual inspection
 - FG function check
 - Packaging and marking check

CONTACT US

For more information please contact your local SGS office, or visit www.sgs.com.