



intertek

Total Quality. Assured.

SOFTLINES

**END-TO-END  
SOLUTION FOR  
FOOTWEAR &  
LEATHERGOODS**

Total Quality. Assured.



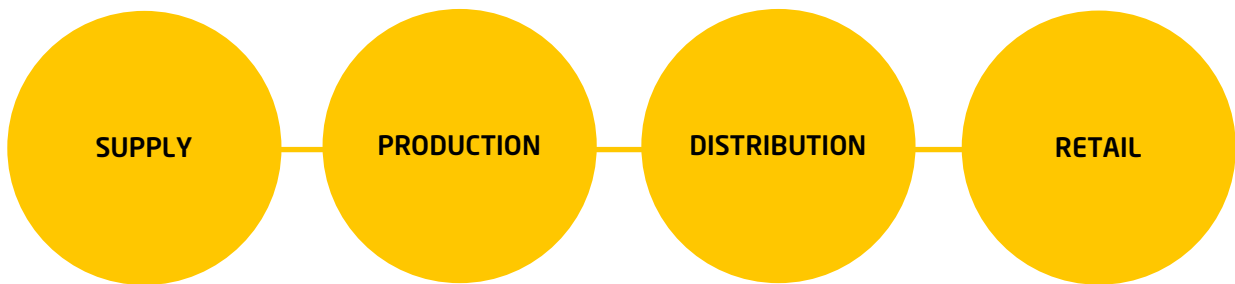
# END-TO-END QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR FOOTWEAR & LEATHERGOODS

Footwear brands and retailers face many challenges as they strive to maintain a competitive edge in a crowded industry. To achieve success, brands and retailers must:

- Reduce risk to protect your brand
- Ensure compliance with local, federal and global regulations
- Differentiate your products
- Be able to facilitate global expansion

Intertek's global network of technical experts and state-of-the-art laboratories deliver world-class support services that enable footwear brands and retailers achieve success by minimizing risk and avoiding costly product recalls; demonstrating compliance with unique safety regulations in different markets; developing innovative products by leveraging our testing expertise; and expanding into new markets quickly and confidently.

As your Total Quality Assurance partner, you can rely on Intertek at every stage of your supply chain, from sourcing to production to distribution to online and store shelves. Our end-to-end Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification services ensure the safety, quality and performance of your footwear and leathersgoods products.





# ASSURANCE SOLUTION

## Footwear In-house Lab Accreditation Program

Designed for footwear suppliers with in-house laboratories, the program provides evaluation and assessment of the in-house lab's capacity and capability in a quantitative manner.

For brands and retailers, the program allows them to understand the performance of their suppliers own labs, and conduct benchmarking analysis for continuous improvement. Under the program, Intertek can review and assess the quality assurance system, laboratory set-up, technical knowledge of technicians, and equipment calibration. On top of these, we can also provide pre-audit training.

## 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.

## Anti-mould 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 Anti-mould Solution. Combining three key elements, lab testing, training and on-site mould risk assessment, the solution allows you to take preventive measures against mould formation and assure quality at every production point.

## 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.







# TESTING SOLUTION

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 that govern the use of hazardous and restricted substances during and after production.

**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

**Heel**

- Fatigue resistance
- Impact resistance

**Top piece**

- Abrasion resistance
- Slip resistance

**Upper & lining materials**

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

**Lace**

- Abrasion resistance
- Tensile resistance

**Touch & close fasteners**

- Peeling resistance
- Shear strength

**Outsole materials**

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

**Lace**

- Fatigue resistance
- Hardness
- stiffness

**Bags, handbags & 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**

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



# TESTING SOLUTION

Apart from physical and performance testing, chemical compliance and safety is also a key concern when it comes to footwear and leathers. Intertek offers a diverse range of innovative chemical testing services and consultation on leather products that involve heavy consumption of chemicals.

## Hazardous Chemicals Testing

Chromium VI, heavy metal, lead, VOCs, etc. are frequently used in production involving leather. We can conduct chemical testing during manufacturing and at final products per regulatory requirement, industry bodies' requirement, or retailers' own protocols to ensure chemical compliance.

## Chemical Smart Screening

By detecting the presence of some commonly found restricted substances in chemicals and auxiliaries, our Chemical Smart Screening service allows you to identify hazardous chemicals at beginning stages, thus reducing your overall production cost and shortening the turnaround time caused by re-handling or rejection.

## AP/APEOs Quick Test

During the dyeing and wet finishing processes, surfactants that contain AP/APEOs are commonly used. However, they have been identified to be hazardous to both human beings and the environment. The AP/APEOs Quick Test can detect the existence of AP/APEOs in water soluble chemical samples, thereby eliminating the risks associated with detecting AP/APEOs during mass production.

To cope with ever-changing retail industry and trend, we also introduce special testing service, and assist customers' continuous product improvement with our knowledge and insights.

## Functionality of Footwear RFID/Tag

It is more common today for retailers to implant RFID tags in footwear to track the 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.

## Product Intelligence

After reaching store shelves and online inventories, or even landing at the consumer's shoe rack or closet, product testing can still be conducted for due diligence, benchmarking and returns analysis.





## INSPECTION SOLUTION

By employing an independent inspection and testing entity, quality concerns will be identified and controlled at the source. Inspection can be conducted before, during and after production. Our inspectors have been well trained to inspect raw materials to be used, craftsmanship, production status, quantity, and more to ensure you will receive your sandals or handbags without unnecessary surprises.

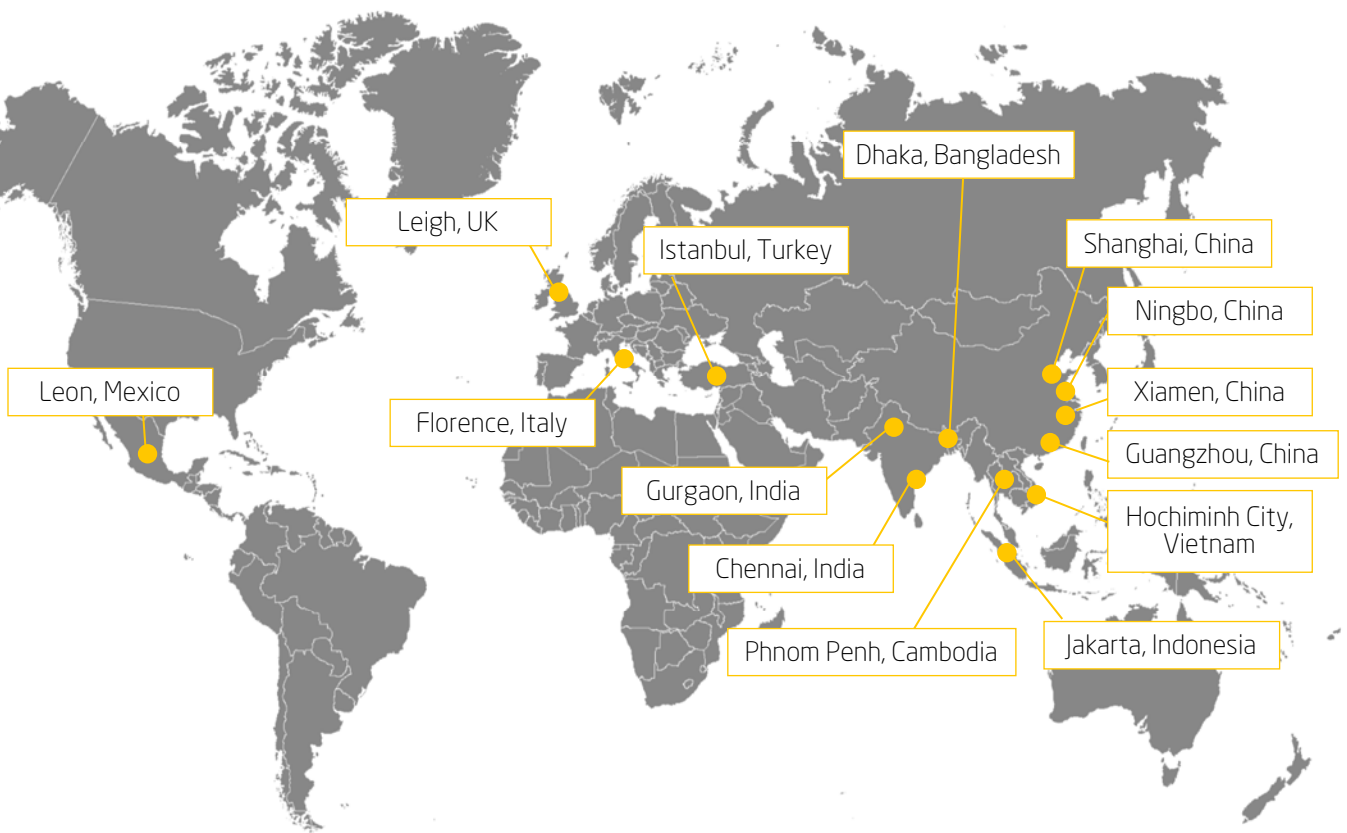


## CERTIFICATION SOLUTION

### Compliance Practitioners Initiative (CPI)

For brands, retailers or suppliers who wish to train their own inspection team, Intertek offers a 5-day training program Compliance Practitioners Initiative (CPI) – Certified Footwear Inspector, which covers basic knowledge in footwear inspection. Upon completion, a certificate is awarded to participants fulfilling course requirement.





## ROBUST EXPERTISE AND CAPABILITIES

Intertek's global network of 14 footwear testing laboratories are strategically located in key manufacturing centers to provide brands and retailers convenient testing with rapid turnaround times. Our footwear laboratories are supported by the expertise of 40 chemical and analytical labs to provide you with a comprehensive quality assurance solution.

With more than two decades of footwear experience, Intertek was the first to establish a footwear testing lab in the production center of Guangzhou, China, followed by strategic locations in the UK, Italy, Vietnam, Mexico, India and Cambodia. Today we are your one-stop solution to fulfill your needs and solve your challenges from footwear concept development to consumers' closets. At your disposal are our passionate footwear experts, who participate in various technical committees and have exceptional knowledge of the footwear industry.

We have helped develop, test and inspect every kind of shoe – from a child's first walking shoe, to performance footwear worn by top athletes and luxury designer brands worn by the world's fashionistas – to ensure safety, quality and functionality, ultimately enhancing brand reputation and growing customer loyalty.



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