



**Choose certainty.  
Add value.**

## TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark: A Step Forward

### A Mark Exclusively for Footwear

TÜV SÜD is proud to introduce a mark exclusive for the footwear industry.

Retailers and manufacturers are now able to demonstrate their commitment to excellence with a mark that tests safety for humans and the environment concerning the use of hazardous chemicals.

### Challenges in the Footwear Industry

17 billion pairs of shoes, from functional work boots to high fashion heels, are produced each year. Research shows that over a hundred processes go into making shoes. The range of materials selected each season by designers – textiles, leather, rope, wood, plastic and synthetics – raises further challenges as some of the chemicals used for molding and other treatments are potentially harmful.

This has led to growing consumer concerns over the possible damage caused by such hazardous chemicals<sup>1</sup> and has prompted regulators to enact increasing legislation to restrict their usage. This presents the footwear industry with more and more stringent regulations to meet, which also

differ from country to country (for example REACH in the EU, CPSIA in the USA).

Non-compliance can result in product recall, penalties from the authorities, loss of potential sales and profit. Worse, the ensuing negative publicity has implications for brand reputation and future success.

### About the TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark

The Mark is awarded on completion of a comprehensive testing and factory inspection program, designed to address pertinent US regulations and most of the EU directives regarding hazardous chemicals. The test parameter also includes most substances found on the RSL (Restricted Substance List) of major retailers.

A universally recognized symbol of trust, it demonstrates your footwear products' compliance with international safety and environmental standards on the use of hazardous chemicals. Successful footwear brands build their global reputations on continuously striving for such standards. This Mark is your next step towards that goal.

<sup>1</sup> Most of these are now placed under the REACH regulation Annex XVII and Annex XIV



[www.tuev-sued.com/softlines](http://www.tuev-sued.com/softlines)

#### Advantages of the TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark

- Provides assurance and confidence to consumers that a product has been manufactured with critical consideration for chemical safety
- Certifies compliance to international standards
- Demonstrates awareness and sense of responsibility towards quality, environment and health
- Strengthens competitive capability and marketability of products

#### TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark allows you to

- Maintain and build brand reputation
- Minimise business risks and costs
- Ensure compliance to international safety and environmental standards concerning hazardous chemicals
- Gain international market access
- Meet customer expectations by delivering consistent quality with regards to material safety, durability and wearability

#### The Certification Process in 6 easy steps

- Request for certification and preliminary evaluation
- Conduct raw materials and product testing
- Conduct factory inspection with spot testing of product from production line
- Conduct evaluation and approval of

testing and inspection reports

- Issue certificate
- Upon approval, the Mark will be released and can be attached to end products according to the enforced regulations

#### Validity of the TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark

Use of the TÜV SÜD Footwear Mark is supported by continual factory inspections (annual) and market surveillance (from the 2nd year) to ensure products in the market continue to comply with the requirements of the Mark.

#### About TÜV SÜD

TÜV SÜD is a major international service group providing testing, inspection, auditing & certification, training and knowledge services. Represented in over 600 locations worldwide, TÜV SÜD holds accreditations for market access in Europe, Middle East/Africa, The Americas and Asia Pacific. TÜV SÜD is a one-stop solutions provider supporting customers secure fast and efficient global access.

#### Contact Us Today

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