



HIGG INDEX VERIFICATION SERVICES

Measure and verify the environmental performance of operations in the apparel and footwear industries. In a competitive global industry, Higg Index facility module assessment and verification offers facilities an effective and demonstrable way, to differentiate themselves from peers and competitors.

Developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) the Higg Index is a suite of self-assessment tools for apparel and footwear products. It helps organisations to standardise the measurement and evaluation of the environmental performance of apparel products across the supply chain at the brand, product, and facility levels.

The Index asks practice-based, qualitative questions to gauge environmental sustainability performance and drive behaviour for improvement. Verification of a Higg Index assessment by an approved assessor increases supply chain and client trust in the data derived.

In order to reduce audit fatigue, a facility can post and share its Higg index verification results on an online platform (Higg.org) and share it with brands and retailers. Only one Higg index verification is necessary, it will be recognised by all SAC members, allowing factories to focus their efforts on the implementation of improvement actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY MODULE

Presented as a self-assessment questionnaire, this tool covers seven key areas of a business' performance:

- Environmental management system
- Energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Water use
- Wastewater/effluent handling
- Emissions into the air
- Waste management
- Chemicals management

With support from SGS, a Higg Index audit is not only an opportunity to showcase your success to clients and new business leads, but also, a chance to grow, develop, improve and change. The assessment of your facility enables the identification of sustainability good practice, opportunities for improvement and risks. Working with an independent partner, you can benchmark your set up against peers and competitors, as well as identify education and learning requirements. We can then help you to develop a roadmap for improvement, thereby making your services even more attractive to potential customers.

SGS SERVICES

At SGS, we can verify the Higg Index assessment for apparel and footwear manufacturing facilities, using one of two methods:

Desktop verification – conducted offsite by an SGS assessor

Onsite verification – a more robust review, offering a higher level of trust to a facility's customers, conducted by an SGS verifier who will visit the facility to review the assessment in situ

The aim of both verification methods is for a qualified verifier to verify the Higg index score of a facility and used in communications with suppliers and customers, to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to help facilities to define and implement an improvement plan.

Higg index verification and suppliers improvement services for brands and retailers includes:

- Training
- Higg index verification and reporting
- Benchmarking of the performance
- Definition of performance
- Improvement plan and follow up

Following the Higg index verification, SGS experts can help the suppliers determine and implement a performance plan. Some of the supporting services include:

- Energy, water, waste audits
- Carbon footprinting
- Sustainability reporting
- Wastewater effluent management
- Chemical management
- Bluefinder to source safe chemicals
- Bluesign® certification

BENEFITS

In addition to increasing trust in the Higg Index score provided by a factory using the self-assessment questionnaire, raising awareness of sustainability and driving continuous improvement, the scheme streamlines the process of finding new business. Importantly, SAC members must accept each other's reports.



Higg Index verification from SGS reduces duplication of effort. An independently verified score can be presented to multiple suppliers/customers with confidence. It also reduces the need for additional site inspections, saving management time and money. On completion, the verification report will be shared by all the members through the Higg.org online platform.

WHY CHOOSE SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. We are recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 80,000 employees, we operate a network of more than 1,650 offices and laboratories around the world.

With a presence in nearly every single region around the globe, our experts speak the local language, understand the culture of the local market and operate globally in a consistent, reliable and cost-effective manner.

CONTACT US

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS