

This document specifies the process of determining the sample for audits as part of the certification of companies according to the Green Shape Standard.

1. Accountability

The responsibility for carrying out the sampling lies with the certification body. This ensures that the sample meets the criteria defined in this document and that its determination is documented in a verifiable manner.

2. Sampling date

The sample must be determined at least one week before the audits are carried out and communicated in writing to the company to be certified in order to ensure proper audit planning on the part of the certification body and the company to be certified (e.g. time availability at the company of the persons responsible for the products selected in the sample).

3. Two-stage risk analysis and resulting requirements for determining the sample

The number of samples per audit is:

- in the case of initial and recertification audits, at least 20% of \sqrt{n} (20% of the root of the total number of products to be certified) per product class; commercially rounded up/down,
- in the case of surveillance audits, at least 10% of \sqrt{n} (10% of the root of the total number of products to be certified) per product class; rounded up / down commercially.

A risk-based approach is used to determine which products to select within the sample. The basis for this is:

- the environment-related sectoral risks in the textile and footwear industry, as set out in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Apparel and Footwear Industry;¹
- the information provided by the company as part of the application process in accordance with the certification program.

¹ [OECD Due Diligence Guide to Promoting Responsible Supply Chains in the Apparel and Footwear Industry | OECD](#)

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The certification body takes into account the following product- and supplier-related aspects when selecting the sample:

3.1 Product-related risk analysis

Aspect	Risk assessment	Instructions for the certification body
Number of commodity classes to be certified	The higher the number of commodity classes, the larger the sample.	The sample contains at least one product per product class.
Product newness level	New products can introduce new risks.	New products will be selected preferentially in the sample.
Complexity of the product	The complexity of the products can be assessed, for example, on the basis of the product classes, base numbers (specification within the product classes), the assignment to the company's product ranges, the price, the number of different components. The higher the complexity, the higher the risk.	Products with high complexity are preferred in the sample.
Environmental relevance of the materials used	Materials with expected risks of greenhouse gas emissions, water and energy consumption, use of potentially hazardous chemicals, animal welfare are selected as a priority in the sample.	Products made of materials with high environmental relevance are preferentially selected in the sample.
Results of previous tests within the framework of Green Shape certifications	Products with deviations and irregularities increase the risk potential.	Products for which deviations and irregularities have already been detected in previous audits are given preference in the sample.

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Products about which there have been complaints or negative press on environmental aspects	Products about which there have been complaints or negative press increase the risk potential.	Products about which there have been complaints or negative press are preferentially selected in the sample.
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3.2 Supplier-related risk analysis

Aspect	Risk assessment	Instructions for the certification body
Duration of cooperation	New suppliers of the company are assessed with a higher risk potential.	Products from new suppliers are given preference in the sample.
Number of tests to date within the framework of Green Shape certifications	The more often a supplier has already been audited, the lower the risk classification.	Products from suppliers that have already been frequently audited are not prioritized for sample selection.
Results of previous tests within the framework of Green Shape certifications	Deviations and irregularities in previous audits increase the risk potential.	Products from suppliers where deviations or irregularities have already been detected are given preference in the sample.
Country of production	Suppliers from countries with a high risk potential for environment-related industry risks in the textile industry are assessed as having a higher risk potential.	Products from production facilities in countries with a high risk potential are preferentially selected in the sample.
Suppliers or production countries about which there have been complaints or negative press on environmental aspects	Suppliers or production countries about which there have been complaints or negative press increase the risk potential	Suppliers or production countries about which there have been complaints or negative press are given preference in the sample.

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3.3 Documentation of the determination and results of the sample

To ensure that the sample meets the requirements specified in this document, the certification body documents in writing its procedure and the result of the sample. She takes this into account in her evaluation and decision.