

HIGG Index Facility Environmental Module (FEM) 3.0

An essential step for measuring sustainability in the global fashion industry

Transparency is key to implementing a sustainability strategy across your entire supply chain. It helps you solve issues upstream and see where and how you can support your suppliers face the challenges that hinder your sustainability goals.

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is a group of stakeholder leaders in the global apparel industry that includes brands, retailers, manufacturers, nonprofits, governments, service providers, trade associations and academic institutions. The SAC aims to reduce apparel and footwear products' environmental and social impacts worldwide.

To make this goal a reality, the SAC focuses on developing and using the Higg Index tools, including the Facility Environment Module (FEM).

Higg index FEM and how it works

The Higg Index FEM is a yearly self-assessment tool used by textile and footwear manufacturers to evaluate their environmental performance. Manufacturers can use the Higg Index platform to share their FEM and communicate their performance with brands and retailers. The Higg Index FEM includes several areas:

- Environment management system (EMS)
- Energy use
- Water use
- Wastewater
- Air emission
- Waste
- Chemical

After the assessment, you must ensure that you accurately completed all parts of the Higg FEM — giving your self-assessment the credibility and accuracy required to share publicly. Demonstrating accuracy is why a SAC-approved verifier needs to validate your FEM self-assessment. The verifier is selected and hired to review a facility site and is responsible for validating the accuracy of the assessment. Within the Higg Index FEM scope, you can choose between two types of verification:

On-site verification – The verifier visits the facility premises. If a facility wishes to communicate Higg Index scoring publicly, they must complete

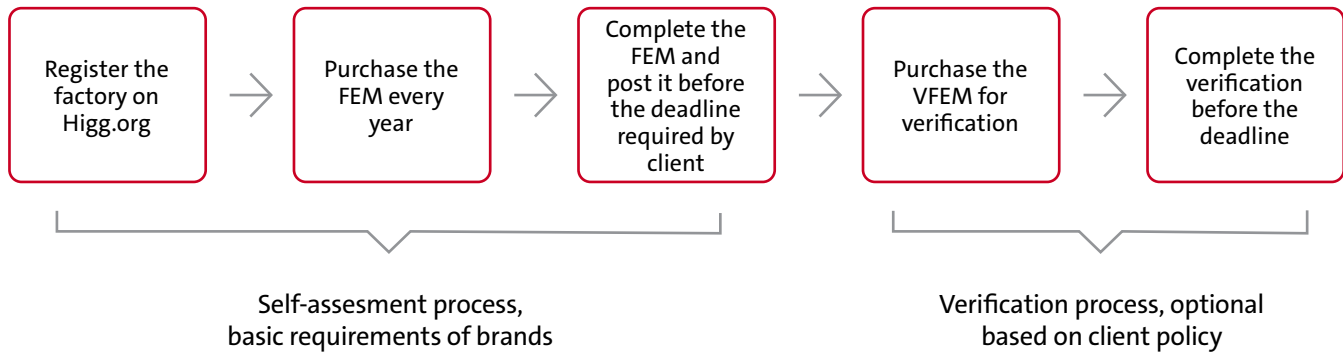
- On-site verification.
- Off-site verification – The verifier can conduct the verification without going to the site but by other means such as email, photos and web conference. It is applicable if there are no local verifiers in the country or traveling restrictions due to unique situations, including the pandemic.

Benefits of a Higg Index FEM verification

Thanks to a Higg Index FEM verification you can:

- Increase credibility and accuracy of the data provided in FEM.
- Share your verification results with business partners and reduce audit fatigue by eliminating another verification.
- Use Higg verification data to demonstrate your year-over-year improvement in environmental performance.

The Higg Index FEM verification process:



The difference between the Higg FEM verification and a traditional audit

The Higg FEM is not a pass/fail audit. It is a means to verify that you understood and answered the FEM self-assessment correctly. Verified data and scores provide trusted information on facility environmental performance, reducing the need for multiple proprietary audits.

How UL Solutions can help

UL Solutions is an approved Verifier Body for the Higg Index FEM and an approved verifier for the SAC Higg Index verification. We have a global presence in countries such as China, Bangladesh, Turkey, Mexico and others. Our global network of laboratories, bundled with our broad expertise in the field of sustainability, including environmental and social programs, makes UL Solutions your preferred partner to help achieve your current and future sustainability goals.



Contact us for more information at Apparel@ul.com or visit UL.com/solutions.



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