



# TPSA Project Provides Indonesian Testing Labs With an Introduction to Canadian Requirements for Apparel and Footwear Products

To increase footwear and apparel exports to Canada, Indonesian testing labs must ensure that their testing procedures meet Canadian regulatory standards. The labs participating in this training gained a firm appreciation and understanding of Canadian requirements through theoretical and hands-on exercises.

## Background

Indonesia's apparel and footwear industries are major contributors to the country's employment and economic activity. There is a large domestic market for these products, and manufacturers are actively seeking opportunities in foreign markets. However, Indonesia still faces challenges in complying with the conditions and requirements of some overseas markets.

To help Indonesian footwear and apparel products enter the Canadian market, TPSA organized a program of technical assistance for Indonesian testing labs that evaluate footwear and apparel products for export to Canada.<sup>1</sup>

## Phase 1: Lab Assessments

In May 2017, Intertek, a TPSA expert subcontractor, visited four Indonesian labs that test footwear and apparel components and products and undertook an extensive review of their management and operational practices. The audit was conducted by two Intertek staff, one from Canada and one from the local Intertek office in Jakarta. TPSA Jakarta staff also took part in these visits. The audit was based on an in-depth review with a questionnaire developed by Intertek to assess testing laboratory com-



Classroom training.

pliance with internationally accepted management standards, good testing practices, and execution of Canadian testing requirements. The training and technical assistance was then planned based on the audit results and consultation with the labs.

The assessment results showed that lab staff had limited knowledge and little familiarity with the relevant Canadian regulatory requirements. In many cases, the labs also lacked the appropriate equipment or skills to enable them to test to the Canadian market requirements for textiles and footwear.



## Phase 2: Training Workshop on Meeting Canadian Requirements

Based on the assessment reports, Intertek developed a training plan to bridge the gap observed during Phase 1. Three Intertek experts, Reaaz Buddoo (Intertek Canada), Suresh Biswal (Intertek India), and Arunachalam Srinivasamoorthy (Intertek India), travelled to Indonesia to conduct training and help the Indonesian labs learn to test to the relevant Canadian footwear and apparel standards. Intertek Indonesia teams provided translation during these training sessions where it was needed.

The training workshop was held over four days in May 2018, and was attended by 17 participants from the following Indonesian labs:

### Government Labs

- Balai Besar Tekstil (The Centre for Textile in Bandung)
- Balai Besar Kulit, Karet, dan Plastik (The Centre for Leather, Rubber, and Plastic in Yogyakarta)
- Balai Pengembangan Industri Persepatuan Indonesia (Indonesian Shoe Industry Development Centre in Sidoarjo)
- Balai Besar Kerajinan dan Batik (The Centre for Craft and Batik in Yogyakarta)

### Private-Sector Labs

- PT SUCOFINDO

In addition, 11 participants from the Directorate General of Consumer Protection and Trade Compliance of the Ministry of Trade attended the workshop training.



Hands-on training in the lab.

The workshop was opened by Chandrini Mestika Dewi, Director of Standardization and Quality Control of the Ministry of Trade, and Liliek Setiawan of the TPSA project.

The first day of training focused on an overview of the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) presented by Mr. Buddoo. The session covered regulations related to hazardous substances, surface coating, heavy metals, consumer products containing lead, phthalates, the restricted substances list (RSL), flammability, and mechanical and physical dangers (e.g., choking hazard, sharp edges, sharp points) for both the apparel and footwear sectors.

Key learnings from the module include the following:

- understanding the federal and provincial legal frameworks in Canada, where they are used, and how they are implemented;
- understanding the Canadian compliance requirements detailed within the CCPSA for textiles and footwear;



Participants at the end of the in-class module.



- understanding the product recall process and reporting mechanisms under the CCPSA;
- understanding the labelling and packaging requirements for consumer goods in Canada;
- understanding the similarities and differences between Canadian and U.S. regulations. Canadian laws and regulations tend to be less strict than those of the United States.

The second day of the workshop was held in the laboratory, led by Mr. Buddoo and Mr. Srinivasamoorthy. This module focused on hands-on training in analytical testing related to apparel and footwear components and products. Much of the day was focused on the phthalates test according to the Canadian Phthalates Regulation (SOR/2010-298).

The test determines the presence of phthalate esters in consumer products made of polyvinyl chloride, using solvent extraction and precipitation of the polymer, as applicable under the CCPSA and Toy Regulations, item 27.2 D (SOR/2011-17).

Phthalates are suspected cancer-causing agents and reproductive hazards. Adequate precautions must be taken to avoid undue exposure. The analyst is also directed to wear protective gloves and use mechanical pipetting devices when handling all working solutions or concentrates, and to conduct the analysis with a ventilated fume hood.

Key learnings from this module include the following:

- The use of glass equipment in conducting the phthalates test is a must. Plastic equipment is



Participants practicing skills discussed during the hands-on training session.



Suresh Biswal speaks with participants during the training.

not recommended, as it can easily contaminate the test sample and bias the result.

- The analyst is strongly encouraged to wear all necessary protective devices while conducting this test.
- The analyst must record all results of the in-house control in the analytical instrument's logbook.
- The analyst must verify that the values of the results do not exceed the control limits but may be within the warning limits.
- If the control sample results are outside the control limits, the entire analytical procedure must be repeated.

"As a person who works in the testing laboratory, this workshop and lab training gave me an understanding of Canadian market requirements. It broadened my perspective on how and why the testing laboratory should improve. The ideas discussed can help with the development of future laboratories in order to be able to fulfill other market requirements as well."

—DWI NINGSIH  
*Balai Besar Kulit, Karet, dan Plastik (Centre for Leather, Rubber, and Plastic), Indonesian Ministry of Industry*

The third day of training focused on how to determine the total lead and mercury content in surface coating materials of consumer goods, as per Toy Regulations SOR/2011-17 and amendment SOR/2016-195 under the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA). The training was conducted by Mr. Srinivasamoorthy and Mr. Buddoo.



Participants at the end of the hands-on lab training.

Surface coating materials, especially in toys, are highly regulated because children frequently put such products in their mouths.

Key learnings from this module include the following:

- The analyst must scrape off the applied coating from the test article with a scalpel without removing the underlying substrate material.
- The use of microwave to digest the sample must be extremely accurate.
- The analyst must record the results of the in-house control in the analytical instrument's logbook.
- The analyst must verify that the value of the results does not exceed the control limits but may be within the warning limits.
- If the control sample results are outside the control limits, the entire analytical procedure must be repeated.

Mr. Biswal presented the final module, where participants learned about the following tests: fibre content, 45-degree flammability, loose-fitting children's sleepwear, sharp edges, and small parts. Ensuring the safety of young children is the main focus of these tests.

## Participant Feedback

Participants were happy with the training and hoped that similar training would be offered in the future. All participants reported that their knowledge had increased as a result of their participation, with 33 per cent reporting it had "increased significantly" and 67 per cent reporting it had "increased to some extent."

All participants rated the training either "very good" or "good." Eighty-three per cent noted that the skills they learned during the seminar would be used in their work at least occasionally. The remainder explained that their lab uses different practice standards. Sixty-one per cent indicated that their new level of confidence in applying the skills learned was "excellent" or "very good," 28 per cent said "good," and 11 per cent said "fair."

Participants shared some constructive feedback and ideas for future training with the TPSA team and consultants at the end of the workshop, including the following:

- Participants would like to better understand Canadian standards and regulations related to quality control of products.



- They want to gain more knowledge about laboratory equipment usage and procedures.
- They would like to establish a network of analysts from all the laboratories to share experiences and knowledge.

## About the TPSA Project

TPSA is a five-year, C\$12-million project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The project is executed by The Conference Board of Canada, and the primary implementation partner is the Directorate General for National Export Development, Indonesian Ministry of Trade.

TPSA is designed to provide training, research, and technical assistance to Indonesian government agencies, the private sector (particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises, or SMEs), academics, and civil-society organizations on trade-related information, trade policy analysis, regulatory reforms, and trade and investment promotion by Canadian, Indonesian, and other experts from public and private organizations.

The overall objective of TPSA is to support greater sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Indonesia through increased trade and trade-enabling investment between Indonesia and Canada. TPSA is intended to increase sustainable and gender-responsive trade and investment opportunities, particularly for Indonesian SMEs, and

to increase the use of trade and investment analysis by Indonesian stakeholders for expanded trade and investment partnerships between Indonesia and Canada.

The expected immediate outcomes of TPSA are:

- improved trade and investment information flows between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for the private sector, SMEs, and women entrepreneurs, including trade-related environmental risks and opportunities;
- enhanced private-sector business links between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for SMEs;
- strengthened analytical skills and knowledge for Indonesian stakeholders on how to increase trade and investment between Indonesia and Canada;
- improved understanding of regulatory rules and best practices for trade and investment.

For further information, please contact the project office in Jakarta, Indonesia:

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## ENDNOTE

<sup>1</sup> Coffee, the third commodity of TPSA focus, was not included in the training. Canada and Indonesia both follow international testing standards for coffee beans. These standards are already well-known and implemented in Indonesia.