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CHINA TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR STANDARD UPDATE FOR 2012

According to the China National Standard Approval Bulletin, the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China have approved and promulgated about 150 textiles and footwear standards. About 33 national standards and about 113 industry standards are involved.

GB 18401-2010 < National General Safety Technical Code for Textile Products> and GB 28011-2011<Shanks for Footwear> are the most important standards in all of these approved and promulgated standards. In addition, many old product standards have been updated, such as GB/T 14272-2011 <Down garments> and QB/T 4329-2012<Cloth Shoes>. Many product standards filled in a gap where standards had not existed in previous years, such as FZ/T 73042-2011<Knitted scarf and shawl> and QB/T 4331-2012<Children's Athletic Shoes>. Newly issued textile standards will be helpful to regulate enterprise behavior and market supervision. Textile and footwear enterprises should pay more attention to these standards and avoid potential risks. Some changes in standards are listed below.

The main differences between GB 18401-2010 and GB 18401-2003 are as follows: The applicable scope has been modified; Infant age has been changed from 24 months to 36 months; The pH value in category B has been changed from 4.0-7.5 to 4.0-8.5; Product categorisation from A, B and C coding has been changed to a verbal description; Modified the list of annex A; Added sample description.

The main differences between GB/T 14272-2011 and GB/T 14272-2002 are as follows: The applicable scope has been modified; The safety requirement of infant and children's wear has been added; Down content and the down-proof properties of fabrics have been added; Some chemical and physical requirements have been added and the appearance defects have been modified.

FZ/T 73042-2011<Knitted scarf and shawl> is a newly issued standard, and it is applicable to scarves or shawls which are made of textile knitted fabrics. This standard specifies the marking of the product size and the quality requirements for internal quality and appearance quality. The internal quality requirements include fiber content, formaldehyde content, pH value, odour, banned azo colorants, colour



fastness, dimensional change after washing or dry cleaning and appearance after washing or dry cleaning. Appearance quality requirements include surface defects, specification deviation, specification difference within itself, and sewing provisions.

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The standard GB 28011-2011<Shanks for Footwear> is a mandatory national standard, applicable to footwear containing metal shanks (including boots). It was formally put into effect on 1st August 2012. The test item marking, minimum lengths, longitudinal rigidity, hardness and bending capacity are mandatory properties and the remaining items such as appearance, size tolerance, and fatigue resistance are recommended.

The standard QB/T 4329-2012<Cloth Shoes> replaced SG 169-1984, FZ/T 82001-1991, FZ/T 82003-1993, FZ/T 82004-1999, and is applicable to shoes with main uppers made of textile or knit cloth, processed by cemented, sewn, moulded, vulcanised, injection or other techniques. It provides technical requirements for appearance quality, upper-sole peeling strength, flexing resistance, abrasion resistance, colour fastness to rubbing of lining and insock, heel hardness of unit sole, steel shanks, decomposable carcinogenic aromatic amine dye content, formaldehyde content, extractable heavy metal content.

The new product standard, QB/T 4331-2012<Children's Athletic Shoes> is applicable to children's or infant's athletic shoes used in normal activity. Before this standard was issued, most children's athletic shoes followed the adult shoes product standard such as GB/T 15107-2005<Athletic Shoes>, with a relatively loose requirement. QB/T 4331-2012<Children's Athletic Shoes> was developed specifically for the safety need for children and the design characteristic of children shoes. The standard provides the technical requirements for general requirements, appearance quality, upper-sole peeling strength or upper-footwall peeling strength, flexing resistance, abrasion resistance, flexing resistance of upper material at low temperature, colour fastness to rubbing of lining and insock, hardness of outsole, adhesion between outsole and midsole, fatigue resistance of touch and close fasteners, odour, decomposable carcinogenic aromatic amine dye content, formaldehyde content and extractable heavy metal content.



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FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com

Global Softlines Development Office: global.sl@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com

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