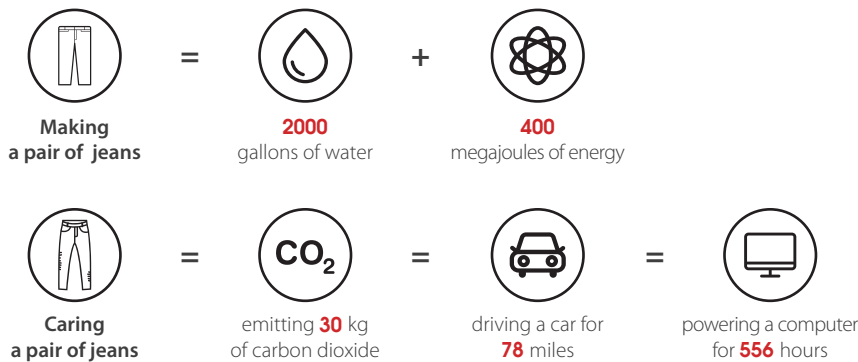


SAC Higg FEM Verification & Training Service

Background of Higg FEM

The environmental cost of producing and wearing clothes is high. Nearly 20% of industrial water pollution comes from textile dyeing and treatment. Apparel, footwear, and textile production takes place at thousands of factories globally. These facilities play a key role in the overall sustainability of the industry.



The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is a non-profit organization founded in 2011, allying and leading the apparel, footwear and home textile industries for sustainable production. It has more than 200 members, who have committed to the vision of establishing a standard tool to measure sustainability performance for the above mentioned industries so as to produce no unnecessary environmental harm and have a positive impact on the people and communities.

What is Higg FEM

Higg Index is a suite of self-assessment tools developed by SAC and it is designed to measure the sustainability impacts of apparel and footwear products. FEM (Facility Environmental Module) is one of the modules at the facility level, which informs brands, retailers, and manufacturers about the environmental performance of their individual facilities, so they can make improvements that reduce negative impacts.

Higg Index Ecosystem



Benefits (Why do you Higg?)

CHEAPER

This module can be used by manufacturers at any tier of the apparel, footwear, and textile industry value chain. It covers all areas under the same business license even if the factory has several sites and different production lines, which reduces the need for additional site inspections, saving management time and money.

CLEARER

It creates opportunities for open conversations among value chain partners so businesses at every tier in the value chain collectively perform better.

BETTER

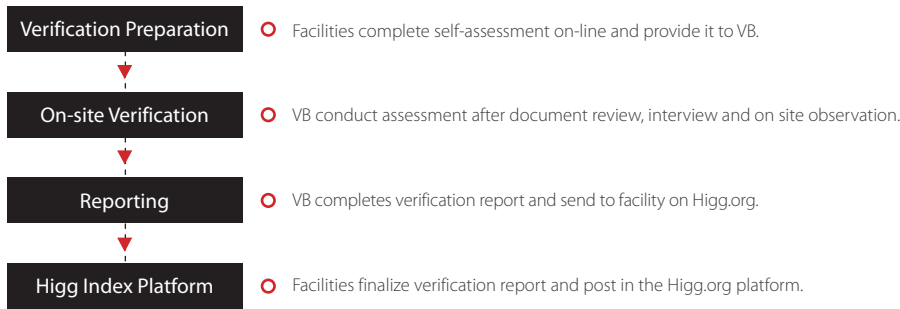
Trusted, credible Higg Index data provides better, more comparable benchmarking information for manufacturers so they can better evaluate their existing level of performance and improvement opportunities.

SMARTER

FEM can give manufacturers clear guidance on hotspots for improvement and outline the current best practices in the field, which streamline the process of finding new business and provide business intelligence for better decision-making.

■ Verification Process

Users conduct the assessments at least once a year, and these assessments are then verified by SAC-approved, on-site assessors like Leverage Limited.



■ FEM Performance Level Sections



■ MD Structure

	Occupied Area			
	≤20 Km ²	21-60 Km ²	61-100 Km ²	>100 Km ²
Facilities without chemical usage during production	1-2 man-day(s)	2 man-days	2 man-days	2 man-days
Facilities with chemical usage during production	2 man-days	2 man-days	2-3 man-days	2-3 man-days

- ▶ **1 Man-day:** Low risk facilities with less than 4 modules in Higg FEM achieving level 2 and/or above;
- ▶ **3 Man-days:** High risk facilities with more than 4 modules in Higg FEM achieving level 2 and/or above (including 4).



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■ Seven Key Sections

The Higg FEM measures:

- Environmental management systems
- Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- Water use
- Wastewater
- Emissions to air (if applicable)
- Waste management
- Chemical use and management

■ Why Leverage

Leverage is a SAC-approved third-party verification body for the Higg Index (Higg ID 131899), providing professional Higg FEM verification and training service. If you find yourself not familiar with the module after completing the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ), or have further requirements for the verification knowledge, please feel free to contact us for our training. For example, as to the ZDHC module, Leverage can provide a 2-day course with training certificates issued, the instructors of which are all approved by the ZDHC chemical management module.

