

Higg Index



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What is HIGG INDEX?

It's a self-assessment standard used in the apparel and footwear industry it is used for assessment of environmental & social sustainability throughout the supply chain. The HIGG index was developed by a non-profit organization called Sustainable Apparel Coalition which consist of members from apparel or footwear retailers, affiliates and trade associates, it also consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, institutions and environmental non-profits organizations.

The first version of this index was developed in the year 2012, named after the Higgs Boson search which was discovered in the same year. The second version which was released in the year 2015 included social labor and convergence project. These changes aim to establish a uniform standard for auditing labor conditions as well as social impact in the field of apparels and footwear.

Comprised of 5 tools that forms its core, which together assess the social & environmental performance on the supply chain as well as the impact it leaves on the environment. These tools include the Higg Facility Environmental Module (FEM), Higg Facility Social & Labour Module (FSLM), Higg Brand & Retail Module (BRM), Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI), and Higg Product Module (PM).

What are the focus points of Higg Index FEM?

- Environmental Management System.
- Energy Usage, its monitoring.
- Greenhouse gas.
- Water Consumption & disposal.
- Emissions into atmosphere.
- Management of the waste.
- Procuring, storage, usage and disposal of chemicals.

What are the focus points of Higg Index FSLM?

- Human Resource activity.
- Total working/ operational hours of employees.
- Minimum wages as per legal requirement & benefits.
- No discrimination with employees.
- Labor union & involvement.
- Operational Health & Safety.
- Implemented Management Systems.
- Social corporate responsibility.

Who all are eligible for Higg Index FEM?

The Higg FEM is applicable to all the industries along the supply chain which deals in the following industry sectors:

- Textile Industries.
- Apparel Industries.
- Footwear Industries.

What are the document requirements for Higg Index FEM?

The organization opting for Higg Index FEM requires to fill the self-assessment to demonstrate its compliance, along with this the organization should be able produce documents required during verification.

The documented information required for Higg Index FEM

- EMS documents.
- Water use documents.
- Energy use & greenhouse gas emissions.
- Waste water & Sewage documents.
- Exhaust emission documents.
- Waste Management documents.
- Chemical Management documents.

What are the document requirements for Higg Index FSLM?

The organization opting for Higg Index FSLM requires to fill the self-assessment to demonstrate its compliance, along with this the organization should be able produce documents required during verification.

The documented information required for Higg Index FSLM:

- Working hour's records.
- Site ownership evidence.
- List of workers.
- Operating License.
- List of sub-contractors.
- Work Place rules compliances.
- Workers Contracts.
- Records for wages.
- Health & Safety records.

What is the purpose of the Higg Index?

The Higg Index 2.0 is a technique for evaluating clothes and footwear products based on indicators (equipment and accessories coming soon). Its goal is to establish a common industry strategy to assessing and measuring sustainability impacts.

How did Higg Index evolve throughout the year?

Version 1.0: The First version of Higg Index was made public on July 2012. In its first iteration, Higg Index metrics focus on environmental factors.

Version 2.0: On December 2013 an updated version of Higg Index with metrics pertaining to footwear as well as labor and social sustainability was released.

How will Higg Index FEM & FSLM Benefits your Organization?

- Helps to identify sustainability issues immediately.
- Shows organizations approach towards sustainability.
- Provides a competitive edge over the competitors.
- Facilitates sustainability education & collaboration.
- Emphasis & improves the overall social labor practices.
- Assurance regarding the 100% compliance to Social Labor practices.
- Accurate scoring & easy sharing of data with external interested parties.
- Helps to avoid waste of time & cost required for audits.
- Passport to international market for business opportunities.

How will PQSmitra help you with Hassle - free Implementation process for Higg Index?

PQSmitra Team helps organizations to implement the requirements of HIGG FEM in the simplest and systematic manner. The methodology of system implementation covers Initial review, planning followed by implementation, and documentation. PQSmitra Team offers active support and hand-holding to organizations to achieve successful system implementation and positive audit results. 100% documentation support is offered to expedite the implementation process. The implementation process is described below:

- Initial visit and Helping in Company Registration on Higg portal.
- Review of the existing system with respect to Higg self-assessment checklist.
- Gap analysis and planning for compliance.
- Documentation including procedures, work instructions, etc.
- Updating of the Higg self-assessment checklist with its evidence.
- Inviting the SAC approved assessor (verifying body).
- Support during the on-site verification.
- Uploading self-assessment report on Higg portal.
- Support to act on areas for improvement identified during verification process.



PQSmitraService Features appreciated by clients



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