

KOHL'S

FABRIC, GARMENTS,
TEXTILE ACCESSORIES & TRIM
TESTING PROGRAM

Kohl's Testing Program for Apparel & Apparel Accessories

PROGRAM SCOPE

The Kohl's Testing Program has been set-up to ensure that all private and licensed brand products meet the company's expectations of product quality and all federal/state/city regulatory compliance mandates. All vendors are responsible for ensuring that the products they ship to Kohl's are in compliance with the requirements outlined in this manual. If a vendor is not able to meet Kohl's Testing Program, it is the responsibility of the vendor to notify Kohl's at the time of order placement. Kohl's Testing Program is for the benefit of Kohl's and does not replace the vendor's own monitoring.

Kohl's requires vendors to stay up-to-date on the laws that govern the sale of textiles and related consumer products in the USA. It is the vendor's responsibility to ensure that merchandise shipped complies with all applicable regulatory standards. Merchandise in violation of such laws will be subject to cancellation and vendors will be fully responsible for any associated fines, penalties, lost sales or other financial ramifications caused by any such violation. A partial list of federal and state regulations is as follows:

- **The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008**
- **California Proposition 65**
- **The Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423**
- **The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, 16 CFR Part 303**
- **The Flammable Fabric Act, 16 CFR Parts 1610, 1615, 1616, 1631, 1632, 1611**
- **The Wool Products Labeling Act, 16 CFR Part 300**
- **The Fur Products Labeling Act, 16 CFR Part 301**
- **Hazardous Substances and Articles, 16 CFR Part 1500**
- **Ban of Lead-Containing Paint, 16 CFR Part 1303**
- **Plumage Regulations, State of California Title 4 BHFTI Rules & Regulations, Article 5**
- **Flammability Regulations, State of California Title 4 BHFTI**
- **Rules and Regulations, Article 13 -TB 117, 603, 116**
- **Labeling of Filling Materials, State Requirements**
- **Customs Duties - Country of Origin Marking, 19 CFR Part 134**
- **Product Size Specifications**
- **Etc.**

Kohl's has contracted with independent laboratory testing services. Kohl's will only accept test results issued by an accredited third party lab. Laboratory locations & contact information can be found on K-Link website (<https://link.kohls.com>).

TESTING AT A GLANCE

Kohl's QA-PI has updated requirements for testing. These requirements differ among denim, washed and all other apparel in regards to the stages of testing required. **Please refer to the Adopted Denim SOP on KLINK for details on mandatory testing requirements.**

TESTING REQUIRED FOR APPAREL (EXCLUDING DENIM)				
	New/Adopted Development	Pre-Production Fabric	Production Fabric	Production Garment
Type of Fabric				
New/Adopted	X	X	X	X
Existing			X	X

1) TRIMS: TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Trim testing is required for all trims used in production, regardless of whether the supplier is Preferred or Non-Preferred. Testing must be conducted during bulk fabric or trim testing. If the Trim Supplier does not complete the testing, the vendor is responsible for ensuring it is completed before shipment.

When the same trim is used across multiple styles, it only needs to be tested once. The original test report can then be cited in Full Garment Production Test Reports as a "reference test report."

Colorway Testing Guidelines

- **Initial Full Package Testing:** Test the darkest colorway for full package requirements.
- **Additional Colorway Package Testing:** Test remaining colorways for applicable regulatory requirements (e.g., Lead, Phthalates, etc).

If the same metal component is used across multiple colorways, lead in substrate testing is only required once during the full package test. However, all adult and children's products, in all colorways, must be tested for regulatory toxicity wherever applicable.

Kohl's offers **reduced additional colorway trim testing**. If the trim supplier uses the same substrate across the same trim style, it is expected to have no changes in the components across multiple colorways of the same trim style. If the trim is the same style and uses the same substrate across

multiple colorways then Lead in Substrate can be tested one time in the full package testing as stated above and shown below:

Testing Required	Full Packaging Testing	Additional Colorway Testing
Lead in Substrate*	X	
Lead in Surface Coating*	X	X
Phthalates (plasticized materials)*	X	X
Colorfastness (all CF tests)*	X	X
Please reference 300 Series and 501 protocol(s) for any additional state and regulatory testing.		

***Applicable where needed**

Trim testing validity will follow the same guidelines as garment/fabric testing.

****Please reach out to mr-colorist@kohls.com for preferred and/or recommended trim supplier contact information. For any questions about trim testing, please reach out to quality.assurance@kohls.com.**

2) PRE-PRODUCTION FABRIC TESTING

Testing is required for all adopted fabrics that are not carryover fabrics and are entering the fit process. Fabric suppliers are responsible for completing all required testing. A passing or conditionally accepted test report must be submitted with the first fit sample. All testing must follow the Fabric Test Protocols – 100 series.

One initial full package test is required on a sample in any available color of the same fabric quality that is being submitted to Product Development and/or the Materials Team and is entering the fit process. The test sample must be a minimum of 3 yards in length and full width of representative piece goods. Testing must be conducted by a third-party lab, although certified mills may perform testing for certified test properties.

The purpose of testing is to ensure compliance with product regulatory standards, safety standards, and performance expectations. It also establishes a material standard for future reference. Testing must be completed prior to the fit process and bulk production testing.

Test reports must be uploaded to OnePLM. Any failing reports will be reviewed by Kohl's QA-PI team for further evaluation.

For platform fabrics, they must be clearly identified during pre-production testing. If any issues arise, the Materials Team must be notified so corrective actions can be taken before bulk production. A passing test report must be submitted along with the fabric standard to the Materials Team.

3) PRODUCTION FABRIC OR PIECE GOODS TESTING

3.1 All textile fabrics for production orders must be tested directly by the fabric supplier. The fabrics must comply with Kohl's Fabric Test Protocols – 100 series and be representative of actual piece goods.

For each style, the darkest colorway must undergo initial full package testing using a minimum of 3 yards at full width. The remaining colorways must be tested according to the "Additional Colorway" section of the applicable protocol, with each color requiring at least ½ yard at full width.

Vendors are responsible for ensuring that all fabric testing is completed before garment production begins. Factories may only proceed with production once the fabric test reports are approved by Kohl's QA-PI team or LF-Product Integrity. This requirement applies in all cases, including when the same fabric is sourced from multiple mills or when multiple fabrics are used within a single style.

3.2 Fabric must be the same fiber content, fabric construction and finish as contracted by Kohl's. It is typically sufficient to base verification of the fiber content claim on test results from one color-way, with the exception of:

- **Heathers** - For any given style, that comes in both solid and heather colors, if the construction of the fabric is the same, test the darkest solid for the full fabric package, and test the heather as an additional colorway package & fiber content. If the construction of the fabric is different, it is required to test the full fabric package for each construction/blend: darkest solid and one heather.
- **Cashmere** - On all cashmere or cashmere blend products, it is required to conduct fiber analysis on ALL color-ways of each style. Contact Kohl's QA-PI team for approval of grouping- This may be allowed when the same fiber is shared between multiple silhouettes/styles. Please refer to the Cashmere & Camel Hair Product Testing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for additional details.

Exemptions from fabric testing include:

- Sweaters and Heathers
- Leather & Suede – Apparel/Accessories
- Vinyl, Synthetic & Imitation Apparel
- Costumes
- Seamless Foundations
- Textile & Non-Textile Accessories
- Socks/Slipper Socks/Booties/ Tights and Hosiery/ Bras & Gowns w/ underwire
- Infant Bibs
- Belts, Jewelry, Neck ties, Bowties, Clip on Ties, Pocket Squares, Headband, Barrette, Hair Clip
- Graphic Program SOP
- Denim/Washed Apparel* see SOP for more details*
- Reduced Test Order Garment Protocol 221

****All colorways must be tested in the garment stage****

In order to understand how fabrics perform before wet processing is applied, all newly adopted fabrics, including washed, wet processed, resin or chemically treated products are NOT exempt from pre-production fabric testing. Testing fabric in the pre-production stage allows Kohl's to then proceed to bulk garment testing once passing or approved comments are made in OnePLM.

****If there are any questions regarding this process, please reach out to Kohl's QA-PI team right away.****

4) PRODUCTION GARMENT TESTING

4.1 – Sample Requirements for Testing

Samples must be randomly selected from bulk production-quality garments or products. These samples must be submitted to a Kohl's-approved laboratory for testing.

Samples must match the approved quality, signed off by Product Development, specifically regarding:

- ✓ Fabrication, Fabric Construction, Yarn Size & Fiber Content
- ✓ Fabric Weight
- ✓ Dyeing & Finishing
- ✓ Wash or other fabric treatments
- ✓ Finished Product Construction
- ✓ Trims
- ✓ Size

4.2 – Testing Protocols, Timing & Compliance

Garment testing must be completed with passing results at least 30 days before shipment. All styles are required to comply with Kohl's Garment Test Protocols – 200 series.

Per Style Requirements:

If the fabric has already been tested, only one dark colorway per style needs to undergo full garment testing according to Protocol 201, unless otherwise instructed by Kohl's Product Integrity (PI) Team.

If the fabric has not been tested, all colorways for each style must be fully tested. This includes testing one colorway—preferably the darkest—for the initial full garment package, followed by individual testing of each remaining colorway.

Additional Testing Requirements (When Applicable):

1. Toxicology and Regulatory Testing is required for all adult and children's products. This testing must include all colorways and must cover all applicable regulatory toxicity standards.

2. Kohl's Appearance Retention (KAR) Testing

Garments that are color blocked or have contrasting trims, or have multiple fabrications must be tested in ALL colorways for Kohl's Appearance Retention (KAR).

5) KWIQ (KOHL'S WASH EVALUATION to INSURE QUALITY) TESTING

The **KWIQ (Kohl's Wash Integrity & Quality)** program is a required quality assurance initiative that goes beyond pre-production testing. It focuses on evaluating real-world wash and wear durability to ensure that the after-wash performance of fabrics, garments, and textile products meets or exceeds both Kohl's internal standards and customer expectations.

Please refer to the KWIQ document, which is available on KLINK, for more detailed information.

[KWIQ Testing Guidelines](#)

6) PRODUCTS WITH PERFORMANCE CLAIMS

Testing is required for all products that include performance-related marketing claims, such as No Iron, Easy Care, Quick Dry, or any other functional or benefit-driven claims.

Test Request Form (TRF) Requirements:

Vendors must clearly identify all performance claims on the Test Request Form (TRF). If a specific claim is not listed, they must contact Kohl's QA-PI Team for guidance.

All products with performance claims must be tested to validate the stated function. This testing is mandatory and must objectively substantiate the claim. Claims cannot be advertised without supporting test results.

Failure to conduct or properly document testing may lead to rejection of goods, approval and shipment delays, and increased compliance oversight.

For applicable test standards and methods, vendors should refer to:

- Kohl's Fabric Test Protocols – 100 Series
- Kohl's Garment Test Protocols – 200 Series
- KWIQ SOP (for wash performance validation)

SAMPLE SUBMITTED FOR: APPAREL TESTING		PERFORMANCE CLAIMS: YES	
SERVICE REQUIRED: REGULAR Service		TIER 1	
AGE GRADE: ADULT		GCC REQUIRED: PLEASE SELECT	
Apparel / Accessories Protocol Number: 201		Comments - This protocol is for all types of garments unless identified under it's own category. To be used only after Fabric testing has been completed	
Initial Garment/Product Package (include all components, i.e. belts, jewelry)			
Package TYPE:			
Initial OR Fabric Report Number:	GUAT1400001		
Dates of Reference Report(s):	Please enter Previous or Full report(s) number(s)		
OTHER (fill each test or package additionally required):	Please enter Previous or Full report(s) issue date(s)		
PLEASE SPECIFY ALL PERFORMANCE CLAIMS			
Performance Claim 1: Wicking	Performance Claim 2: Not Applicable	Performance Claim 3: Not Applicable	Claimed UV Rating (when applicable fill below):
Additional Claims or Other (if not in list):	Statement Claimed on Product		
COMMENT: OK			

7) FREQUENCY OF TESTING

Adult Products: Must be tested every 12 months or every 150,000 units per style/color, whichever comes first. This requirement applies regardless of the quantity ordered, including test or new store orders.

- **Testing must also occur when there are production changes, such as:**

- A change in the factory producing the product
- A change in materials used

Exception: All new colors must go through testing.

Children's Products: Must be tested every **12 months** or after **100,000 units per style/color**, whichever comes first.

- **Exceptions** to this cadence are outlined below.
- If a style is reordered or goes into new production **6 months or more** after initial testing, the **vendor/factory must contact Kohl's QA-PI** (Quality.Assurance@Kohls.com) to confirm if additional testing is required.
- If the initial testing **failed** or received an **"Accept As Is"**, the test report **cannot be extended and require re-testing**.
- The following products **require testing every 6 months**, regardless of volume or other factors:
 - Children's candles
 - Children's sleepwear
 - Any item requiring **PFAS testing** (e.g., water-resistant or waterproof claims)

8) EXCEPTIONS TO THE TESTING PROGRAM

Kohl's allows limited testing exceptions under specific conditions. Vendors may submit one fabric test request referencing multiple styles, but each style still requires separate garment testing.

8.1 Fabric Grouping

Fabric grouping is allowed when the same fabric is used across styles with identical:

- Fiber content
- Construction
- Yarn count
- Color

Example: If the same jersey fabric in "grape seed" is used for an infant top, bottom, and bodysuit, test the fabric once, but test each garment style separately.

⊘ Non-Groupable Scenarios in Fabric & Garment Testing

✗ You CANNOT Group If...

Condition	Explanation
Solids with Prints or Patterns	Grouping is only allowed within the same design category: - Solids can only group with solids - Prints can only group with prints - Patterns can only group with patterns - Do not mix solids with prints/patterns
Across Genders	Products made for different genders (e.g., men's vs. women's vs. kids') cannot be grouped, even if they share fabric and construction
Different Fiber Content	Grouping is only permitted when the exact same fiber composition is used. Variations in fiber content—even minor ones—disqualify grouping
Different Fabric Construction	If the weave/knit structure, yarn count, or weight differs, grouping is not allowed—even if the fiber content and color are the same
Different Vendors	Styles manufactured by different vendors or mills may not be grouped, even if fabric and design elements are otherwise consistent

9) SAMPLE SUBMISSION

9.1 When to Submit?

To ensure timely testing and allow for corrective action if needed, samples must be submitted from the early production run. Vendors and agents are responsible for planning adequate lead time.

Recommended Submission Timelines

<u>Testing Type</u>	<u>Completion Deadline</u>
Pre-Production Testing	Complete prior to submitting for fabric & trim testing
Fabric & Trim Testing	Complete at least 50 days before the x-factory date
Garment Testing	Complete at least 21 days before the x-factory date

Important: All tests must be completed with passing results early enough to allow time for corrective action if any failures occur.

9.2 – Where to Submit Samples?

Third-Party Laboratories: Samples must be sent to the nearest authorized test lab approved by Kohl's. For a complete list of approved labs, including their capabilities and locations, visit the K-Link website. Visit the [K-Link website](#) under the Approved Labs & Capabilities section.

Internal Lab Certification Option: Vendors with in-house labs may apply for Kohl's Internal Lab Certification Program. To learn more about eligibility, requirements, and certification steps, contact Kohl's QA-PI team.

9.3 – What to Submit?

Sample Quantity: The number of samples required is specified in the relevant Kohl's Test Protocol, typically found on the last page.

If the incorrect quantity is submitted, testing will be placed on hold until corrected.

Required Documentation: Each sample must be submitted with a completed Kohl's Test Request Form (TRF). Testing will not proceed if the TRF is missing, contains incomplete or inaccurate information, or if the sample quantities are insufficient. Vendors must ensure the TRF is accurate, detailed, and complete to avoid testing delays or compliance issues.

9.4) What do I need to send for testing?

Testing Submit Checklist		
☐	☐	Testing Request Form (TRF)
☐	☐	Correct # of Samples (Per Lab)
☐	☐	Packaging / Hangtags or Cads
☐	☐	Tracking Label (Children's and/ or Adult)
☐	☐	Certification (for brand name or Trademark fibers eg Lycra, etc.)
☐	☐	Import Permit (if applicable)

10) VENDOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT TESTING

Vendors are responsible for all product testing costs unless explicitly stated otherwise by Kohl's. This includes testing fees charged by third-party laboratories, shipping costs for sending samples to the lab, and any fees for returning tested samples if requested.

Vendors are also liable for all re-testing expenses resulting from failed test results, incomplete or incorrect samples, or resubmissions required after corrective actions. Vendors should plan accordingly to prevent delays and avoid additional costs related to non-compliance.

Invoicing & Billing

The third-party lab bills the vendor directly. Vendors must establish accounts with Kohl's-approved laboratories, arrange billing and payment terms, and coordinate testing procedures directly with the lab.

11) TEST REPORT REVISIONS

Revisions Due to Vendor Error: If incorrect information is submitted on the Test Request Form (TRF) by the agent or vendor—such as an incorrect style number, fiber content, construction details, or test protocol—the vendor will be charged a service fee for issuing a corrected or revised test report.

Revisions Due to Kohl's Approved Changes: For Kohl's-initiated or approved updates—such as style number changes or revised fabric details—the vendor must first obtain written approval from Kohl's QA-PI Team. This approval must then be submitted to the original third-party lab, along with all supporting documentation and corrected details. Vendors must also follow the Test Report Revision Guidelines available on the K-Link portal.

Note: *All revisions must be processed by the same lab that issued the original report.*

Fees: A service fee applies to all test report corrections or revisions, whether due to vendor error or Kohl's-approved modifications. Vendors should factor this cost into their overall testing and compliance budget.

12) KOHL'S RANDOM IN-STORE AUDIT TESTING PROGRAM

This program ensures that the final products sold in Kohl's stores are consistent with the samples originally submitted and approved through third-party testing. It acts as an additional safeguard, not a replacement, for the required pre-shipment product testing and certifications vendors must complete.

Kohl's may randomly select merchandise from store locations at any time for supplemental testing. The purpose is to confirm that the in-store product matches the pre-tested samples, product specifications, and claimed performance attributes.

If a tested in-store product differs from the pre-shipment tested sample, Kohl's will contact the vendor to address the discrepancy. The resolution may involve actions such as corrective measures, further testing, or other compliance steps as determined by Kohl's.

Chargebacks may be issued for quality-related financial losses, lost sales or profit, administrative penalties, and Cost of Quality (COQ) charges. These fees are assessed when vendors fail to meet Kohl's quality and compliance standards.

Legal & Contractual Implications

This program does not override or replace any existing obligations under Kohl's Merchandise Purchase Orders or established product testing and certification standards.

Kohl's retains the right to enforce compliance and seek damages or recovery in accordance with vendor agreements.

Key Reminder: Vendors are fully responsible for ensuring that all shipped merchandise remains consistent with approved samples and compliant with all requirements, regardless of whether the product is selected for in-store testing.

Vendor Best Practices

Vendors should conduct final quality assurance checks to confirm that mass production matches the approved test samples. It's important to maintain thorough documentation of all pre-shipment testing and ensure proper version control for materials, finishes, and trims. Implementing strong internal audit protocols can help minimize the risk of product deviations. Additionally, vendors should be prepared to respond promptly in the event of any discrepancies identified during in-store audits.

CONTACT INFO FOR KOHL'S PRIVATE & EXCLUSIVE BRAND SOFTLINES TESTING

For all queries, reach out to: quality.assurance@kohls.com

Mailing Address:

Menomonee Falls Office

Kohl's Department Stores

Attn: Product Integrity

N56 W17000 Ridgewood Drive – South Dock

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Phone: 262-703-7000

REVISIONS

- 4/24/19** – Added 8.4 “What do I need to send for testing” Checklist, including the Import Permit if applicable
- 9/10/19** – Updated pre-production testing requirements
- 9/17/19** – Added Fiber content labeling requirements
- 11/19** – Overall document updates to ensure clarity in requirements.
- 3/6/20** – Added Neckwear, Accessories & bras & gowns with underwire to the exemption list for material testing Supplier pre-production testing, Preferred Trim Supplier production testing, and updated format
- 4/14/20** – Added Denim Fabric Development Testing requirement for all new denim – effective SP '21
- 5/14/20** – Added Trim Supplier Development Testing requirements for all new trims; updated denim development testing requirements; updated to add in information regarding certification.
- 5/15/20** – Added Trim Supplier Development Testing requirements for all new trims; updated Trims Testing Section
- 5/28/20** – Updated the Denim Fabric Development requirements.
- 6/29/20** - Updates to overview layout, denim development, trim development, and all other apparel testing requirements, etc.
- 2/23/21** - Adopted Denim Fabric testing section updated.
- 12/3/2021** - Updated to include Test Type & Definitions
- 4/20/2022** - Updated to remove tier 3 from document
- 5/20/2022** - Updated to add KAR & adjust Dimensional Stability parameters to denim dev testing chart
- 8/29/22** - Updated Denim SOP to include wash requirements in Pre-production and fabric production stages, as well as weight, yarn count and yarn size reporting on the TRF
- 3/3/23** - Updated Denim fabric testing requirements for Code A & B washes when there are shrinkage concerns
- 3/15/23** - Made more updates to Denim Testing: Removed “Adopted”; made updates to denim charts, etc.
- 10/5/23** - Updated to add chart for All Other Apparel - when testing is required to be conducted (eg development, fabric, garment, etc) in section 1 of document
- 4/3/24** - Updated Trim Testing guidelines
- 6/4/24** - Updated Testing At A Glance table for **ALL OTHER FABRICS**
- 7/12/24** - Updated verbiage for Trim testing to help avoid confusion
- 9/2025**- Updated document to remove denim testing information from within document and instead reference the Adopted Denim SOP; Re-worded the entire document to provide clarity on expectations. Updated by Jackie Deppisch.