



# **Soft Home & Home Textiles Testing Manual**

**December 2025**

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### 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**

In order to accomplish the above objective, Kohl's has contracted with an independent third party laboratory testing service to conduct product evaluation and testing on behalf of Kohl's. Kohl's will only accept test results issued by laboratories approved for Kohl's testing. Additional details on laboratory locations, contact etc. can be found on K-Link website (<https://link.kohls.com>).

### Test Type Selection & Definitions:

Please refer to the document titled "Test Types & Definitions" on KLINK. This document ensures alignment between our vendor partners, third party labs, OnePLM, and Kohl's PI/QA teams. It is located on KLINK under the Shared Documents section on Kohl's Performance Testing. If there are questions, please reach out to: [product.integrity@kohls.com](mailto:product.integrity@kohls.com).

### Development and/or Pre-Production Testing

To ensure Kohl's is receiving "great" quality products, pre-production testing is required for all adopted fabrics (materials). Adopted fabrics are defined by fabrics that are not carryover and that enter the fit process. All adopted fabrics must be tested and completed directly from the fabric suppliers. A passing or conditionally accepted test report should be submitted with the first fit sample.

Fabrics must be compliant per our requirements under the Fabric Test Protocols – 100 series. The pre-production test consists of one initial full package test on one available color (same quality being submitted as an approval standard to Product Development and/or the Materials team and for the fit process). A minimum 3 yards, full width of representative piece goods must be submitted to the third party lab (certified mills are still allowed to test for certified test properties). Such testing ensures that all product regulatory, safety, and performance issues are addressed prior to the fit process and subsequent bulk production testing. These reports also establish a material standard for later reference. Pre-production testing must be done prior to production testing, and the reports will be uploaded to onePLM. Failing reports will be reviewed by Kohl's Product Integrity team.

Platform fabrics must be identified when this testing is occurring so that the Materials Team is alerted to any corrective action that needs to be taken prior to bulk production. The passing test report needs to accompany the fabric standard submission to the Materials Team.

**\*\*Going forward, all newly adopted fabrics, including washed, wet processed, resin or chemically treated products will no longer be exempt from pre-production fabric testing. We want to understand how fabrics perform before wet processing is applied.**

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

### Real and Faux Fur Policy:

Kohl's does not allow the use of Real Fur in any of our private and exclusive brand products. Kohl's only allows the use of Faux Fur. The faux fur material **MUST** meet all criteria outlined in the Kohl's Product Safety and Labeling Guidelines for Apparel Products.

### Domestically Filled Product

#### Testing and Inspection Policy for Domestically Filled Products

##### TESTING

- **Bulk Fabric/Shell Testing:**

All bulk fabric or shell materials must be tested by an approved third-party laboratory *prior* to shipment to the U.S. All labeling should be submitted and approved before shipping.

- **Final Product (Post-Fill) Testing:**

Once the product is filled in the U.S., it must undergo final testing through a third-party lab to ensure compliance with quality and safety standards.

### Testing and Inspection Policy for Domestically Filled Products - continued

#### INSPECTION

- **Final Random Inspection:**

A final random inspection must be conducted in the U.S. after production is complete. This inspection will be carried out by a third-party inspector via the *Inspectorio* platform.

- **Inspection Format:**

Inspections may be conducted either **in person** or **virtually**, depending on operational needs and availability.

### Development Trim Supplier Testing

Development testing is now required for all trim suppliers for new trims being adopted. All adopted trims must be submitted to a third party lab for testing. The development testing ensures all performance and safety issues are addressed prior to production testing. Test reports need to be uploaded into the onePLM system. Any failed reports will be reviewed by the Kohl's Product Integrity team. The development testing will consist of one full initial package test in one available color (must be quality being adopted). Please reference the 300 series for trims on K-Link for most current test methods and requirements.

| TRIMS TESTING TIMELINE |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 6 MONTHS               | ADULTS/CHILDREN |

### KWIQ (Kohl's Wash Evaluation to Insure Quality) Testing

The KWIQ program is an additional tool to ensure the after wash performance of fabric, garment or textile products meet Kohl's customer expectations and quality. This program should be implemented at both the fabric and garment/textile product stage on every style and colorway. This is a mandatory step within the integrity process to validate the product is meeting or exceeding the standard set during pre-production testing. Please reference the KWIQ SOP for more details.

### Finished Product Testing

Frequency of testing is determined by the number of units or amount of time surpassed, whichever comes first (per style, per colorway).

6.1) All production orders for soft home must be tested and completed directly from the fabric suppliers. Textile fabrics must be compliant per appropriate Kohl's Soft Home Test Protocol(s).

For any given style:

A. **Initial Full Package Testing** -Test the darkest colorway (min 3 yards full width).

B. **Additional Colorway Package Testing** – Test the remaining colorway(s) per "Additional Colorway section of the appropriate protocol (min ½ yard full width, each color).

### Finished Product Testing - continued

Production quality finished product testing must be completed and receive a passing test report on **ALL Kohl's STYLES at least 30 days prior to shipment. ALL styles must be compliant per our requirements under the Soft Home**

**Protocols.** Random samples representing "bulk production quality" must be sent to one of the Kohl's approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing labs. The "bulk production quality" finished product must be representative of Kohl's approved quality for:

- A. Fabrication, Fabric Construction, Yarn Size and Fiber Content
- B. Fabric Weight
- C. Dyeing & Finishing
- D. Wash and any sort of treatment
- E. Finished Product Construction
- F. Trims
- G. Size

All components in a product must accompany the sample that is submitted for testing. For example, bed in a bag set-comforter, sheet sets, shams, pillow cases, decorative pillows, etc. Additionally, it is the vendor's best interest to have production products tested, in all colors, as early on as possible. Particularly those that have not been tested in raw material stated and/or those regulated by the federal government.

Product testing will be conducted as follows:

- 1) Darkest colorway of the product/style is tested per the Full package.
- 2) Additional/remaining colorway of the product/style is tested per the Additional Colorway package. Refer to the testing protocol section of the testing manual for specifics of additional colorway testing.
- 3) For all children's products, ALL colorways in any given style must be tested for applicable toxicity tests, i.e. Lead in Surface Coating, Total Lead in Substrate, Phthalates etc. Plus, should the product have a child appeal or play value, it is subject to the "Safety Supplement" tests.

#### The Below Require Additional Testing, when Applicable:

1. All Adult and Children products, all colorways, MUST be tested for applicable regulatory toxicity tests.
2. Products that are color blocked or have contrasting trims, or have multiple fabrications must be tested in ALL colorways for Kohl's Appearance Retention (KAR).

### Frequency of Testing

All production quality fabrics and retail-ready products must be tested.

**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 Product Testing Requirements

- 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)

Please note, for both adult and children's products, additional colorways must be tested as well. For additional information on tests to be conducted, number of samples needed for testing etc.; please refer to the individual testing protocols section of this manual.

### Use of disappearing "Magic Pens" is prohibited

Magic pens are commonly used to mark the position of cut parts for accurate sewing. Markings disappear with steaming, pressing, and/or washing, only to reappear when subjected to freezing temperatures, rendering the production defective during transit from the factory.

We are prohibiting the use of Magic pens/markers for any Kohl's product effective immediately (3/2022) without exception. There are alternatives to magic pens, such as water-soluble chalk or templates that can be considered.

### Products with Performance Claims

Products with performance claims (e.g. Wrinkle Resistant, Quick Dry, Stain Resistant, etc.) MUST be tested to substantiate the claim that is called out on the product. Vendor is responsible to make sure the claim is identified/checked off on the Test Request Form (TRF). If a claim is not listed, reach out to Kohl's PI team immediately. All information on the TRF must be accurate and filled out completely.

**\*\* Vendor is responsible to make sure the performance claim(s) is tested. Kohl's can reject the goods if not tested\*\***

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SAMPLE SUBMITTED FOR:</b> SOFTHOME<br><b>SERVICE REQUIRED:</b> REGULAR Service<br><b>AGE GRADE:</b> ADULT                | <b>PERFORMANCE CLAIMS:</b> YES <br><b>TIER:</b> 1<br><b>USE FLEX PLM:</b> YES |
| <b>Softhome Protocol Number:</b> 701 <b>Towels – Bath/Hand/Tip/Wash/Beach/Bath Mats</b>                                     |  |
| Package TYPE: <b>Finished Product</b>   |  |
| OTHER (fill each test or package additionally required):  |  |
| <b>PLEASE SPECIFY ALL PERFORMANCE CLAIMS</b>  |  |
| Performance Claim 1: <b>Quick Dry (towels)</b> Performance Claim 2: Not Applicable      Performance Claim 3: Not Applicable |  |
| Additional Claims or Other (if not in list): <b>Statement Claimed on Product:</b>   |  |
| <b>COMMENT:</b> OK  |  |
| Claimed UV Rating (when applicable fill below):   |  |

### Products with Batteries

**Button-Cell or coin batteries:** Products that use must follow Reese's Law requirements. See additional details in the Reese's Law protocol, available on [K-Link](#).

**Standard size batteries:** Products that use standard batteries; **sizes AAA, AA, C, D or 9V:**

The battery compartment door/cover must be secured with screw(s). Screw must stay secured in the door/cover when removed.

### Exception to the Textile Testing Program

**Grouping of selected tests** – In certain cases, the laboratory may be able to group the same fabric (fiber content/construction/yarn count etc.), used on more than one product, for testing purposes. The intent of such grouping is to minimize testing duplication. However, there are tests that the laboratory would need to test on each product individually i.e. appearance retention, dimensional change, seam strength etc.

**When grouping products or sets together for testing, ALL Kohl's style numbers must be listed on the Test Request Form and ALL products must be submitted.**

**Product Group testing is allowed as per the following scenarios:**

**Fabric/fiber content/construction are exactly the same provided it is from the same fabric mill and made from the same factory across the different product sizes but, has separate style numbers:**

## Soft Home Program Overview

Example 1: Towels – Bath Sheet, Bath Towel, Tub Mat, Hand, Tip, Wash Cloth etc.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Styles  | SO-2650-Acorn, SO-1626-Acorn, SO-1118-Acorn |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: 95% Cotton 5% Other Fiber Terry/Velour |   |
| Submission: Submit all three sizes together under protocol #701.  |   |
| Product Sizes   |   |

Example 2: Monogram Towels

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Styles  | SS13DBEMHT01-A, SS13DBEMHT01-Z |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: 100% Cotton, Exclusive of Decoration   |                                |
| Submission: Send one solid towel in for full/regular testing (with a single letter on it). Along with the regular testing, please send one towel with ALL letters monogrammed on it for appearance after washing testing. |                                |
| Towel - # 701   |                                |

## Soft Home Program Overview

### Example 3: Bath Wrap/Hooded Towel & Wash Mitt

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Styles  | KH11OWL, WM11OWL |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: 100% Cotton  |                  |
| Submission: Submit both products together however, under different protocol numbers.<br>Bath Wrap/Hooded Towel - # 701<br>Wash Mitt - # 702 |                  |
| Product Sizes   |                  |

### Example 4: Rugs – Bath Rug, Lid Cover, Contour Bath Rug

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Styles  | CB1813-Crimson, CBCON-Crimson, CB2032-Crimson, CB2339-Crimson |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: 100% Nylon                               |   |
| Submission: Submit all four products together under protocol # 901. |   |
| Product Sizes   |   |

## Soft Home Program Overview

Example 5: Bedding Sets - 8 pc set; comforter, bed skirt, 2 euro shams, 2 shams, 1 oblong pillow, 1 square pillow

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Styles  | HC8PC-Windsor-Q |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: 100% Polyester, Exclusive of Decoration  |                 |
| Submission: Submit all 8 pieces in the set together however, under different protocol numbers.<br>Comforter - # 602<br>Bed skirts/Shams/Euro Shams - # 601<br>Oblong Pillow/Square Pillow - # 604 |                 |
| Product Sizes   |                 |
|    |                 |

# Grouping Request Form

Vendor/ LF Partner should submit request to testing analyst to confirm okay to group

When submitting Testing Request Form (TRF), make sure to include grouping form, so lab knows what should be grouped.

## K-Link: Grouping Form

## **CANNOT GROUP IF:**

- **Solids / Patterns / Prints**
  - All same (print with print or solid with solid) can be grouped, but cannot group solids with prints
- **Across Genders**
- **Different Fiber Content**
- **Different Construction**
- **Different Vendors**

## Soft Home Program Overview

### **Product Group Testing is NOT Allowed as per the Following Scenarios:**

**Fabric/fiber content/construction is NOT the same regardless if they are under the same program.**

Example 1: Bath Coordinates – Towels (fingertip, wash cloth, hand & bath), Rug and Shower Curtains

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Styles   | APT9-1218-OPTIX, APT9-1313-OPTIX, APT9-1332-OPTIX, APT9-2452-OPTIX,<br>APT92030OPTIX, APT9-72720OPTIX |
| Fabrication/Fiber Content: Rug -100% Cotton, Towels – 100% Cotton,<br>Shower Curtain – 100% Polyester  |   |
| Submission: Each product type must be tested separately under different protocol numbers.<br>All towels – may be grouped together # 701<br>Rug - # 901<br>Shower Curtain - # 703 |   |
| Product Sizes  |   |



**If there is a product grouping that is not listed above which the vendor would like to proceed with product grouping, please consult with Kohl's Product Integrity Team.**

### Sample Submission

#### **When?**

Test samples must be selected from early production run, in order to help ensure testing can be completed before x-factory date. Kohl's recommends:

**Pre-Production Testing- Testing Complete = PRIOR to submitting for fabric & trims testing**

**Fabric & Trim Testing – Testing Complete = at least 50 days prior to x-factory date**

**Finished Product Testing – Testing Complete = at least 21 days prior to x-factory date**

Product must be submitted to a third party lab and receive a passing test report with enough time for **corrective action** should any problems be found during product testing. It is the vendor/agent's responsibility to ensure enough time has been scheduled.

#### **Where?**

Test samples may be forwarded to the nearest test laboratory authorized by Kohl's (See approved labs and capabilities section K-Link website (<https://link.kohls.com>) for a listing of authorized laboratories).

For suppliers that have their own internal lab testing capabilities Kohl's does offer an Internal Lab Certification program. If this is something you are interested in, contact Kohl's Product Integrity for more information and requirements.

#### **What?**

The required number of samples must be sent for testing as listed on each protocol. If the laboratory does not receive the correct number of samples, testing will be put on hold. The suggested minimum number of samples is indicated on the last page of each of Kohl's Test Protocol or can be obtained by contacting the laboratory directly.

Completed Kohl's Test Request Form must accompany all samples submitted to the laboratory. Testing will not be conducted without a completed TRF and/or sufficient samples for testing. It is the vendor/agent's responsibility to complete the TRF as accurately as possible, incorrect information can cause delays.

#### **What do I need to send for Testing?**

| <b>Testing Submit Checklist</b>     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Testing Request Form (TRF)</b>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Correct # of Samples (Per Lab)</b>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Packaging / Hangtags or Cads</b>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Tracking Label (Children's and/or Adult)</b>                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Certification (for Brand Name or Trademark fibers [e.g. Lycra, etc.])</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Import Permit (if applicable)</b>   |

### **Fiber Content Labeling**

#### **Fiber Content Labeling (Recycled cotton, recycled poly, organic, Tencel™ Lyocell, etc.)**

If submitting a product for testing that contains sustainable or trademarked content (i.e. Recycled cotton, poly, organic, Tencel™ Lyocell etc.), vendor must provide the proper certificate to be attached to the testing report.

#### **If certificate is PROVIDED at the time of testing:**

- Fiber content claim is to be marked: Content claim is recommended only based on the certificate provided and not by actual testing
- Fiber content will be marked at PASSED, once fiber content is tested and verified
- Certificate is attached at end of testing report

#### **If certificate is NOT PROVIDED at the time of testing:**

- Fiber content should be marked as a FAILURE

### **Financial Responsibility for Testing**

The financial responsibility of all costs associated with product testing (unless identified), are that of the vendor. This includes the cost of shipping the samples to the lab, and charges associated with returning tested samples to the vendor, should the request be made. The vendor will also be responsible for re-testing, should additional testing be required due to failures detected during initial testing.

The third party laboratory will bill the vendor directly for the testing charges. Vendors are required to work with the labs directly to set-up accounts, and establish terms of engagement for conducting business

### **Test Report Revisions**

If an error is made on a test report due to incorrect information submitted on the test request form by the Agent/Vendor, the Agent/Vendor will be charged a service fee for the revised/corrected test report.

If a style number change or other Kohl's approved changes need to be made to the test report, the Agent/Vendor must send the third party lab written approval from Kohl's PI Team. When requesting approval to revise the existing test report, the vendor must provide proper information for such a request (*see Test Report Revision Guidelines on KLINK*). A service fee for the revised/correct test report will apply.

***\*\*All revisions are to be made by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party lab that issued the report. \*\****

### **Kohl's Random In-Store Audit Testing Program**

It is absolutely vital that the final products shipped to Kohl's are identical in all respects to the samples submitted to Kohl's approved 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Testing Laboratory for required product testing. In order to provide further assurances, Kohl's has developed and implemented a supplemental testing program under which Kohl's will from time-to-time pull merchandise from our stores for additional testing. This testing is in addition to, and not in lieu of, all required testing and certifications that are to be performed prior to shipping products to Kohl's.

In the event that any discrepancies are found between the products tested prior to shipment and the products on Kohl's sales floor, Kohl's will reach out to the vendor to address our concerns and reach a resolution. This resolution may include, but is not limited to, additional testing on the products currently on Kohl's sales floor, "marking-down" products, pulling products off sale, issuing chargebacks for any losses incurred, including, but not limited to, any lost sales profits, on account of product discrepancy and/or issuing cost of quality charges. Nothing herein limits or otherwise restricts Kohl's ability to pursue any and all rights and remedies available under our merchandise purchase order, and nothing in this **Random In-Store Audit Testing Program** removes or reduces any obligations vendors have to Kohl's regarding the merchandise supplied to Kohl's.

### **Contacts for Kohl's Private & Exclusive Brands Home Testing**

For all Home Textile Product Testing queries please email to: [Testing.Softlines@Kohls.com](mailto:Testing.Softlines@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**

5/1/2019 – Version 10 – Updated Sample Submission to be 30 days prior to X-factory

9/18/2019 – Version 11 – Adding the recycled content certificate requirements, Pre-Production Testing, KWIQ Testing

1/16/20 – Version 12 – Removed FlexPLM system and replaced with onePLM system

3/27/2020 – Added Preferred Trim Supplier pre-production and production testing. Added testing timeline table, and reformatted document.

5/18/2020 – Version 13 – Added Development Trim Supplier testing, updated Finished Product Testing section, added group testing examples and examples that cannot be grouped together, updated Sample Submission section, updated Financial Responsibility for Testing, and added Test Report Revision section.

12/6/21- Version 14- Added Test Type Options. Refer to Soft Home main page for full list of test types & definitions

3/2022 - added magic pen requirements

8/30/2022 - Removed Tier 3 from document

5/2025 - Updated children's testing requirement from 6 months to 12 months

7/2025 - Added Testing and Inspection Policy for Domestically Filled Products

12/2025 - Added battery requirements