



HIGG (FEM) INDEX

Wendler Interlining Viet Nam Company Ltd.

The demand for more eco-friendly fashion continues to grow. Apparel brands and fashion brands want to be more transparent about the eco-balance of their products and have the challenge of measuring the eco-balance, which can be expensive, complex, and time-consuming. The Higg Index, created by Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), is designed to help measure this eco-balance in a standardized way along the value chain and provide transparency.

What is the Higg Index?

The Higg Index is a self-assessment tool used by apparel and fashion companies to evaluate environmental and social sustainability throughout the global supply chain. The Higg Index consists of different assessment categories. Each category represents the social and environmental performance in the value chain and the environmental impact of the products. Depending on the company's position in the value chain (manufacturer, supplier, producer), different assessment categories with different assessment criteria are suitable.

By using the Higg Index, manufacturers can identify opportunities to reduce impacts and improve long-term sustainability throughout the supply chain.

Our Higg (FEM) Index assessment

As a reliable partner to the garment industry, we always meet high quality and sustainability standards. Therefore, we had our Asian production facility in Vietnam assessed with the Higg Facility Environment Module (FEM). The Higg FEM assesses a facility in several

dimensions such as energy and greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and wastewater, waste management and chemicals.

The production facility in Vietnam was already built as a state-of-the-art sustainable green factory to minimize CO₂-emissions, e.g., by generating energy with biomass as fuel or with special exhaust gas filters in the boiler process. By now, we have made the production in Vietnam climate neutral and had it certified by ClimatePartner.

The Higg FEM assessment helps us to further identify and prioritize improvement opportunities.

The Higg FEM consists of a total of 3 levels. The questions are structured in a three-tier structure (Level 1, 2 and 3), which denotes the overall thresholds for good, better, and best environmental practices.

- Level 1 - Awareness and understanding of sources and systems
- Level 2 - Establishing baselines, targets, and tracking improvements
- Level 3 - Leading best practice examples

We have done our assessment for the first level. For level 1 we need to meet the requirements of the different areas with at least > 25%, which we have exceeded overall.

Each year we will have an assessment carried out. We strive to constantly improve and reach the next levels to protect the well-being of our production workers, local communities and the environment that sustains us all.

If you are interested, we can send you our Higg Index Report on request.