

PFI Certification Mark

**"Barefoot shoe
Quality tested"**



In recent years, a new category of footwear has established itself called barefoot shoes.

An exact distinction from conventional shoes is difficult and the transition is overlapping.

An essential characteristic of barefoot shoes is the more intensive contact of the wearer's feet with the environment. On the other hand, shoes lose some of their protective functions against external influences such as temperature, mechanical stress, moisture, ...

In a competitive market, it is often not enough to rely solely on the excellent quality of one's own products. Our certification marks are an excellent way to successfully communicate the benefits of your products.

As an independent testing institute, we define criteria that go beyond the legal requirements and enable a reliable assessment of quality and safety-relevant properties.

The PFI mark is only awarded to products that meet these PFI requirements.

The criteria include the testing of specific barefoot shoe properties, quality tests of the outsole, the upper/lining material and the insoles/insoles, as well as article-dependent chemical parameters for materials with expected skin contact.

Chemical parameters for the PFI label 'Barefoot Shoes – Quality Tested':

If the marketability of the articles can be confirmed in accordance with REACH Annex 17 and the POP Regulation, only individual parameters are randomly checked in order to obtain the barefoot shoe test mark. Depending on the article, materials with expected skin contact are usually randomly checked three of the following parameters:

- Chromium VI
- Formaldehyde
- Dyes (Azo and allergens and carcinogenic)
- Nickel in metal parts
- Phthalates

Physical parameters for the PFI label 'Barefoot Shoes – Quality Tested':

- Shoe characteristics
- Adhesion outsole/upper
- Flexing resistance of outsole
- Colour fastness to rubbing
- Abrasion resistance of upper inner materials
- Waterproofness complete footwear (if property advertised)
- Cold insulation (if property is advertised)