The Higg Materials Sustainability Index (Higg MSI) is the apparel industry’s most trusted tool to measure and score the environmental impacts of materials. Apparel, footwear, and textile industry designers and product developers can use the Higg MSI to assess and compare the impacts of different materials, such as cotton, polyester, and leather, to produce more sustainable products.

The Higg MSI uses data submitted from the industry and life cycle assessment databases to calculate environmental impacts and translate them into comparable Higg MSI scores. Using these insights, companies can design products that will attract and retain key consumers, who increasingly demand knowledge of greater transparency in how their clothes and shoes are made.

The Higg MSI features more than 80 example materials. These include:

- Aluminum
- Gold
- Nylon
- Polyester
- Silk
- Copper
- Cork
- Cotton
- Duck Down Insulation
- Polyurethane Synthetic Leather
- Silk

These examples represent materials commonly used in the industry. The Higg MSI can calculate the impact of millions of possible material manufacturing variations.
Higg MSI users identify the raw materials and production stages to calculate a material’s environmental impacts.

“The Higg MSI was developed specially for the textile industry through global industry-wide consensus. Before the Higg MSI, no tool in the apparel industry offered common criteria for life-cycle assessments, methodology, and procedures. We use the Higg MSI to showcase our sustainable materials.”

HIDENORI TERAIGeneral Manager, Fibers & Textiles Green Innovation & Life Innovation Business Planning Dept.
TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC

“The Higg MSI can be used in several decision-making contexts. It can demonstrate the relation between environmental impacts and the processing steps that take place in different markets with various production systems. When we are making a new investment or innovating a new product, we can use the Higg MSI to see what the best choices are for the environment and the company’s differentiation in the future.”

KRISHNA MANDASenior Manager Sustainability IntegrationLENZING GROUP

“We use the Higg MSI to understand and measure the environmental impact of Salomon’s materials – we have already scored more than 800 materials so far. Our objective is to score our footwear products and give environmental visibility to our end consumer and B2B clients. With the Higg MSI, we can communicate about sustainability transparently with our suppliers and collaborate globally to make more sustainable products.”

CÉLINE MAZARS
Material Manager of FootwearSALOMON

Manufacturers can enter data in the Higg MSI to score materials in two ways:

01 Submit production data via the Higg MSI Contributor to add new material and production options to the tool.

02 Customize materials using the raw materials and processes already listed in the Higg MSI and share them with your customers.

Adding materials in the Higg MSI is a good way to market materials to sustainable brands.

☑️ Share results with clients and value chain partners
☑️ Promote transparency
☑️ Improve industry sustainability

The SAC is constantly improving and expanding the Higg MSI.

Contribute data to the Higg MSI to continue expanding the tool’s growing library of materials and drive transformational change across the industry.