

## **The Healthy Footwear Guide**

### **A Commitment to Produce Healthy Footwear**

#### **Introduction**

The Healthy Footwear Group is collaboration between key figures in the UK footwear industry and health professionals. Their aim is to help members of the public make healthy choices when purchasing footwear and to encourage manufacturers to consider the health of their customer's feet when designing new products.

The group met in 2006 to consider what constituted a "healthy shoe" and agreed a number of criteria that a shoe would need to have in order to be considered healthy. The findings of the group were published in the British Journal of Podiatry in November 2007.

The work of the Healthy Footwear Group has been endorsed by The Society of Shoe fitters and the British Footwear Association, and offers an opportunity for manufacturers to identify products within their range that meet the criteria. Once registered, manufacturers may use the Healthy Footwear Guide (HFG) logo on their marketing material, and will be listed on the group's website

([www.healthy-footwear-guide.com](http://www.healthy-footwear-guide.com)).

#### **Criteria for Healthy Footwear**

- Toe box allows normal foot function for the individual
- Adequate width and depth achievable for wearer's foot function
- Sole does not interfere with normal foot function
- Softness and flexibility of upper and lining surfaces of shoe
- Stable heel of approximately 25mm height
- In-shoe climate which promotes a healthy environment within the shoe
- Shoe provides reasonable cossetting of vulnerable areas of the foot
- Shoe retains its fitness for purpose for a reasonable period of time
- Shoe must not noticeably slip on the foot
- Availability of product advice and support
- Outsole grip meets industry standards

#### **Becoming a Member**

The Healthy Footwear Guide allows manufacturers to apply to use the HFG logo on their products, which meet the Healthy Footwear criteria. To become a member of the scheme, manufacturers should be currently producing footwear that meets the criteria, and commit to ensuring their products meet the criteria where possible. On applying for membership, manufacturers should identify the products from their range that currently meet the criteria. Once membership has been awarded, the HFG logo may be used on these products for a period of one year. Products may display the HFG logo for longer than one year, provided that the manufacturer is still a member of the scheme and that no significant changes are made to the specification of the product. Should this be the case, the product must be re-submitted for examination, if requested. Whilst there is no requirement for all products to be submitted for approval, the executive committee will randomly sample products from time to time (both by requesting submission of the product and also through examination at retail outlets) to verify that the products do comply with the criteria. If products are found not to meet the criteria, the member will be notified by the committee, and membership may be withdrawn.

## Membership Fees

Membership of the scheme costs £250 per year. Membership of the scheme is reviewed annually. Members will be notified of any changes to membership fees prior to these being implemented.

## The Healthy Footwear Guide

### Application for Membership

#### Introduction and Guidance

This form should be used by manufacturers who wish to become members of The Healthy Footwear Scheme. This form should be completed prior to any applications for product endorsement. All sections of the form should be completed in full; incomplete applications will be returned. The declaration (section 3) must be signed by an authorised person. If you have any queries about completing the application form, please contact Dr Mike Curran Chair of the Healthy Footwear Guide [Mike.Curran@Northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Mike.Curran@Northampton.ac.uk)

Company Name:.....

Company Registration Number:.....

Trading Name:.....

Website Address:.....

Postal Address:

Street: .....

Town: .....

County: .....

Postcode .....

Registered Address (if different from above)

Name of Contact: .....

Position: .....

Telephone Number: .....

Email Address: .....

Fax Number: .....

## Section 2 – Products for Endorsement

Please list the specific products from your range that you believe meet the criteria and wish to be endorsed in a table similar to the one below. You may be required to provide samples of these products for inspection by the executive group.

A product submission form can be found at the end of this document.

## Section 3 – Declaration

In the event of being granted membership of the Healthy Footwear Scheme, we undertake to:

- 1) Accept and abide by the principles of the scheme as amended from time to time by the Healthy Footwear Group, a copy of which we have read and agree to be bound by.
- 2) Pay the fees and costs required by the Healthy Footwear Group for each year of membership.

We undertake to keep the Healthy Footwear Group and its executive members fully indemnified against any losses, liabilities, costs and claims which they may incur or which may be made against them as a result of, or in relation to any actual, or alleged breach by us of the principles of the scheme or as a result of, or in relation to any use of the Healthy Footwear Guide logo. The acceptance of our application shall constitute a contract between ourselves and the Healthy Footwear Group, but not between ourselves and any other applicant for, or holder of membership.

## Disclaimer

This disclaimer is to be included wherever the HFG logo is used, including advertising or promotional materials, on packaging or notices attached to footwear.

“The Healthy Footwear Group (HFG) and its’ executive members cannot accept any responsibility for any injury or loss, howsoever suffered, as a result of using products carrying the HFG logo”

## Signatory

Signature 1: .....

Name: .....

Position: .....

Date: .....

When completed, please return the above form with your cheque for £250 to:

Please email [Mike.Curran@Northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Mike.Curran@Northampton.ac.uk) for the address to send this form to.

<sup>1</sup> The form must be signed by someone with the authority to commit the company to participation in the Healthy Footwear Scheme

## Product Submission Form



**Company:**

**Range:**

**Style Name(s):**

**Sizes available:**

**Date:**

Acceptance Criteria	Confirmation of Standard	Technical Specification <i>(Please insert any relevant information)</i>
Toe box allows normal foot function for the individual		<i>Shoe must have an effective toe puff</i>
Adequate width and depth achievable for wearers foot function		<i>Width fittings available =</i>
Sole does not interfere with normal foot function		<i>Sole material =</i>
Softness and flexibility of upper and lining surfaces of shoe		<i>Upper material =</i>
Stable heel of suitable block height of approximately 25mm		<i>Last block height =</i>
In shoe climate which promotes a healthy environment within the shoe		<i>Lining material =</i>
Shoe provides reasonable cossetting of vulnerable areas of the foot.		<i>Footbed material(s)</i>
Shoe retains its' fitness for purpose for a reasonable period of time		<i>Shoe must have an effective stiffener</i>
Shoe must not noticeably slip on the foot.		<i>Type of Fastening</i>
Availability of product advice and support		Yes/No
Outsole grip meets industry standards		<i>Soling material</i>

Product Photograph(s) (must be submitted)

**Guidance for users**

- Groups of products with the same specification may be submitted on one form with a picture of each style
- Submission Deadlines
  - Spring Summer season products by August 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Autumn Winter season products by February 15<sup>th</sup>

[www.healthy-footwear-guide.com](http://www.healthy-footwear-guide.com)

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