NONWOVENS TESTING SERVICES

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHYSICAL & ANALYTICAL TESTING LAB SERVICES

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ABOUT SGS-IPS TESTING

IPS Testing, an independent laboratory for the nonwovens, consumer products, paper and pulp, packaging, medical supplies and allied industries for over 25 years is now part of SGS.

SGS, the world’s leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company, acquired IPS Testing in 2016. Founded in 1989, it grew out of the Institute of Paper Chemistry and has specialized in combining physical and analytical testing with interpretive data analysis to offer testing services to manufacturers and retailers. SGS-IPS Testing can now deliver expanded capabilities through a global laboratory network. These services help improve and ensure the quality of countless products, many with household names you have come to trust.

Grounded in sound processes, our staff has years of experience in operations as well as physical and analytical testing in both the consumer and supplier environments. By focusing exclusively on paper and nonwoven based products, SGS-IPS Testing has built a reputation as an industry expert.

Our industry focus has remained the same but our breadth of services continues to expand. Most recently, SGS-IPS Testing has added a number of services addressing product stewardship to include regulatory testing, recyclability and repulpability, and flushability testing.

Our Appleton, Wisconsin based independent test laboratory provides testing data and analyses to leaders in the following industries:

- Paper, Pulp and Print Materials
- Medical Supplies
- Personal Care and Absorbent Products
- Nonwovens and Consumer Products
- Packaging Industries
WISCONSIN LABORATORY HIGHLIGHTS

- ISO 17025 accredited (Certificate: AT-1659).
- 3,000 square feet of Analytical Chemistry and Microscopy Laboratory space
- Perform ASTM, NWSP, AATCC, ISO and TAPPI test methods
- Best-in-class fiber and analytical testing expertise
- 5,500 square feet of TAPPI temperature and humidity-controlled physical and paper testing lab space
- 2,000 square foot Flushability lab

Industry leaders trust SGS-IPS Testing to provide the analytical solutions and testing they need. We can help you define quality with numbers, so you can back up product claims, analyze the competition, and make real, measurable improvements to your products.

NEW JERSEY LABORATORY HIGHLIGHTS

Our full spectrum testing, inspection and certification capabilities in Fairfield, NJ can evaluate the physical performance, chemical properties and sustainability of materials, products and packaging. Our extensive industry knowledge, technical expertise and global network provide specialized services at every stage of product development.

- Full textiles testing lab
- Certified by major accrediting organizations including CPSC, ISTA, TAPPI, ASTM, ISO, ANSI, UNDOT, IATA, ICAO and IMDG
- Extensive transit testing capabilities
- Thermal Stability Chambers
- Industry leading chemistry capabilities for restricted substances, Prop 65, Toxics in Packaging, REACH and HD-XRF screenings
- Sustainability services including End-of-Life Characteristics Analysis, Carbon Footprinting, Ecodesign and LifeCycle Assessments
INCONTINENCE, FEMININE HYGIENE AND MEDICAL PRODUCT TESTING

SGS-IPS Testing has extensive expertise in the evaluation of a wide range of disposable consumer products and their constituent materials, including diapers & adult incontinence products, wipes, medical supplies, surgical gowns and drapes, feminine care pads and tampons.

**INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS**
Our Appleton Wisconsin lab is ISO 17025 accredited for the test methods recommended by the National Association for Continence (NAFC) and required by Medi-Cal and other state programs. These methods measure key performance indicators of the absorbent properties of incontinence products such as adult briefs, diapers and underpads and include:
- Rate of Acquisition
- Rewet
- Breathability
- Retention Capacity
- Elasticity
- Total Absorbent Capacity

**NATIONAL BRAND EQUIVALENCY TESTING**
Stores brands continue to grow significantly at the expense of national brands. The appeal of store brands goes beyond cost savings, and is truly a choice of value. Store brands have evolved a great deal since the days of generics due in large part to the efforts of retailers and manufacturers through programs such as national brand equivalency testing.

SGS-IPS Testing performs national brand equivalency testing for a number of retailers to assure that store brands meet or exceed their branded counterparts. The testing protocols are particular to the product line and may be specified by the retailer. SGS-IPS Testing is able to develop a testing protocol focusing on key indicators to help retailers and manufacturers alike.

Testing services for national brand equivalency can range from physical testing to fiber analysis. Our team has years of experience in national brand equivalency and market studies with a wide range of products from paper to consumer goods.

**FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**
In a crowded and competitive sector, SGS-IPS Testing can help you verify the performance of your products. Bench testing can be used to look at material and product properties such as the ability to absorb or pass fluids, material stiffness and abrasion resistance, or fiber composition. We also perform the FDA required Syngina testing for tampons as well as physical testing like string pull and tube expulsion force.

**MEDICAL SUPPLIES TESTING**
SGS-IPS Testing has been evaluating barrier performance of disposable nonwoven medical devices for many years. The passing of the Affordable Care Act affected the configuring of many health care supply/value chains. Possible changes are still uncertain, but the need to maintain a level of confidence in product performance remains. This suite of tests addresses a market need for standardized testing compliance to the FDA Guidance document of December 2015 to ensure both value and good customer care.

SGS-IPS Testing has expanded its ISO 17025 scope and is now accredited to test nonwoven medical devices such as isolation/surgical gowns and face masks according to the following methods:
- Synthetic Blood Penetration
- Water Penetration Resistance (Hydrostatic Pressure)
- Spray Impact
- Flammability

This adds to the existing accreditation for Flushability and Absorbent Products.
FLUSHABILITY TESTING

The flushable wipes industry continues to grow at a rapid pace; its products have often been misrepresented as the source of the problem for waste and sewer system clogging.

With the goal to work with manufacturers and suppliers in educating consumers about which products meet flushability standards, SGS-IPS Testing offers all test methods as outlined in the INDA/EDANA Third Edition “Guidelines for Assessing the Flushability of Disposable Nonwoven Products”.

Wipe products that meet the protocol outlined by the Association of the Nonwovens Fabrics Industry (INDA) and its counterpart, the European Disposables and Nonwovens Association (EDANA), are able to adequately break down through the flushing process. Things like diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, hand towels, feminine care items and other materials usually are not. These non-flushable items are the bulk of what is discovered when evaluating clog masses. According to a Code of Practice directive within the Flushability Guidelines, a product that passes all seven tests will be considered flushable.

SGS-IPS Testing will certify products as flushable per the INDA/EDANA guidelines and is the only laboratory ISO 17025 accredited for this testing. The standards set forth include the following tests:
- FG501 Toilet Bowl & Drain Line Clearance Test
- FG502 Slosh Box Disintegration Test
- FG503 Household Pump Test
- FG504 Settling Test
- FG505A Aerobic Biodisintegration Test
- FG506A Anaerobic Biodisintegration Test
- FG507 Municipal Sewage Pump Test

Our lab is unique in that it will open its flushability lab and equipment to clients for product development purposes. Clients will have access to all equipment and be provided with a technician to perform the testing. Screening tests for flushability are also available.

PHYSICAL TESTING

Physical testing is the largest discipline at SGS-IPS Testing running the gamut from Absorbency to Z Directional Tensile. The physical properties of materials are critical when evaluating raw materials, assessing runnability, catering to consumer preferences, or evaluating sustainability.

Our well-equipped facility with instruments specific to paper and nonwovens, features a 5,500 square foot temperature and humidity-controlled TAPPI testing lab to ensure accurate and reproducible test results. We perform ISO, ASTM, NWSP, TAPPI, and other methods for many paper, paperboard, packaging, nonwovens, and consumer products.

ODOR ANALYSIS

Offensive odor in finished goods can be a very serious issue for any manufacturer. The source is often difficult to track down and the impact can be felt in customer complaints. In the worst cases this has led to costly product recalls.

Odor analysis can be fairly straightforward when dealing with raw materials. The analysis of finished goods is much more complex as there are multiple components; base sheet, coatings, inks, adhesives, etc.

Once inks and adhesives come into play, it is not uncommon to find dozens of target compounds. The issue then becomes, which compound(s) is causing the undesirable odor? SGS-IPS Testing utilizes an Olfactory Detection Port (ODP) to a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) to increase our ability to determine the source of off odors in a complicated matrix.
TROUBLESHOOTING
The scientists at SGS-IPS Testing are very experienced at examining product or material failures. We help provide clients the information they need to quickly identify and eliminate the root cause of the problems they have encountered. Often these projects are very time sensitive because of the problem’s impact on a client’s production. When needed SGS-IPS Testing can handle defect analysis and failure analysis jobs in an expedited manner.

We utilize state-of-the-art equipment, such as Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), and Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), in our detection of your problem material. Our scientists have many years of manufacturing experience that complements their instrumental expertise. This enables them to precisely determine the defect, but more importantly, they can tell you where in the process this defect occurred, saving you time and money.

PRODUCT COMPONENT ANALYSIS / REVERSE ENGINEERING
SGS-IPS Testing can support your competitive intelligence needs by performing component analysis on consumer products, paper products and nonwovens. This work is done on a time and materials basis at a set hourly rate.

PATENT / LITIGATION SUPPORT
SGS-IPS Testing provides customers with effective testing and support both for patent filings and for litigation. Particular strengths in this area include physical testing, microscopy and forensic paper fiber analysis.
SGS can help you reduce risk, improve efficiency and ensure compliance to contractual or performance requirements in all your manufacturing, sourcing, distribution, and retailing operations. We identify the applicable standards for each of your specific product and target markets.

As you consider your company’s compliance challenges, let SGS help you to make the best decisions for your business. To keep abreast of the developments reshaping your industry sector, subscribe to our free publications at: www.sgs.com/subscribe

CONSUMER COMPACT

Our quarterly newsletter embraces all consumer product segments, covering international and product news, industry articles and stories about our activities, including case studies: www.sgs.com/consumercompact

SAFEGUARDS

A technical bulletin concentrating on new and updated product standards, regulations and test methods. SafeGuards is usually published weekly: www.sgs.com/safeguards

PRODUCT RECALLS

Compiles consumer product recall cases notified in the EU, US and Australia. It can help you minimise recalls by increasing awareness of recall cases related to your business. Product Recalls are published bi-weekly: www.sgs.com/productrecalls

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