

# Manufacturing Quality and Traceability for Apparel and Footwear Brands

For apparel and footwear brands, product safety and overall quality are especially crucial. Their products are used daily by people around the world and are subject to strict consumer safety regulations, with violations often leading to brand damage that can take years to reverse. However, since nearly all manufacturing is outsourced across multiple tiers of supply, ensuring quality is a challenge. **E2open®'s Manufacturing Quality and Traceability application** includes capabilities to help brands ensure accountability and transparency across suppliers and manufacturing partners. Brands reduce risks and are better able to withstand disruptions to deliver safe, high-quality products to consumers.

## Streamlined Product Testing and Reporting

Product testing during production is mandatory in certain industries but is a notoriously labor-intensive and largely manual process for brand owners. For instance, brands must issue specific instructions to suppliers and manufacturers about which items to set aside for testing. They must also coordinate with third-party testing specialists and laboratories to understand and store test results for future reference. All this coordination and data management is extremely challenging to do using manual processes such as emails, phone calls and spreadsheets. E2open's comprehensive operating platform brings all

this communication into a single place and eliminates redundant data entry through integration with internal and external applications for products and materials. It connects tens of thousands of factories, suppliers, brands and retailers, enabling brands to view materials tests throughout the entire manufacturing process. With the ability to auto-load test templates and packages based on product and materials attributes, the appropriate data is available in an instant for accurate reporting.



## Key Features

- Centralizes all product testing — including components, bill-of materials (BOM) and finished goods — under one platform
- Integrates with testing labs for detailed sample- and method-level testing results
- Populates product inspection forms — including attribute-based checklists and acceptance quality limit (AQL) templates — directly from the purchase order
- Automatically generates required certificates when products pass safety and quality tests
- Includes digital calendars and email integration to optimize inspection resources and processes

## Key Benefits

- Establishment of detailed traceability of product quality and safety throughout the supply chain
- Protection of brand reputation and equity by ensuring enterprise-wide compliance with brand quality standards
- Reduced risks of recall and fines with full visibility to product and material testing results
- Minimization of errors through image capture and real-time access on a mobile device
- Reduced manual effort and risk of error through streamlined processes, leveraging direct connections to the major test and audit companies

## Achievement of Global Traceability

Through the system, brand owners collaborate with suppliers, manufacturers and other partners at any tier or ecosystem, capturing component-level details for every finished unit and assembling all the data in a centralized way. If quality issues arise in the distribution channel, ease of access to manufacturing and testing data for each product helps achieve complete global traceability. This also strengthens compliance and quality while products are being developed and produced, reducing risk and enhancing efficiencies.

## Rapid Feedback for Enhanced Quality Control

Real-time alerts and communication help to quickly resolve critical and ad hoc quality issues. For example, companies can hold shipments when goods fail an inspection, preventing costly recalls. This rapid response capability helps improve the quality of the goods that reach customers, improving customer satisfaction and safeguarding brand image.

## End-to-End Supply Chain Management Platform

Once an organization implements any e2open platform application, it is easy to add more capabilities in the future

for better visibility, coordination and control over the end-to-end supply chain. The e2open platform creates a digital representation of the internal — and optionally external — network, connects internal enterprise resource planning (ERP) and financial systems using an SAP certified adapter for timely data feeds, and normalizes and cleanses the data to make it decision-grade. Using machine-learning enabled algorithms and supply chain management applications, the platform processes the data and provides bidirectional, closed-loop communications back to ERP systems for execution. This facilitates the evolution of supply chain processes towards true convergence of end-to-end planning and execution.

Mitigate compliance risk and help ensure product quality by leveraging a fully consolidated platform to collaborate with suppliers and manufacturers. Increase customer satisfaction and protect the bottom line.

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