

SFIA Specification
FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3
Final

**PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS AND PROTOCOL FOR
FOOTBALL GLOVES AND HANDPADS**

This SFIA Specification, **FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3**, is a manufacturer's self certified specification with independent lab validation that assures gloves and hand pads for football play do not exceed the allowed tackiness. This is a product performance specification. This is not a product safety standard.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Performance requirements will be tested on material covering the palm of the hand, facing outward, which includes the palm area and the palm side of the fingers, including the thumb.

The specification itself is wholly specific and exclusive to the external palm surface including the palm side of the fingers and thumb. No other aspects of the glove are to be considered or tested by the specification. The performance requirements are pass/fail criteria.

Performance requirements are:

1. Peel Adhesion must be 2 N or less.

The peel adhesion test is conducted using ASTM D3330/D3330M-04(2018) *Standard Test Method for Peel Adhesion of Pressure-Sensitive Tape* as a guide. Test material from the palm of a glove or hand pad shall be removed and trimmed to 1.5"x4.5", which aligns with the SCOF samples. The hand covering material exterior side of one sample should be bonded to the hand covering material exterior side of a second sample. Samples should be bonded together under a minimum of 3 psi of pressure for 1 hour. Samples are then peeled apart using a displacement rate of 5 mm/s. Samples should be loaded until there is full separation, and the peak load during the test should be recorded as the peel adhesion force. 5 pairs of samples should be tested.

2. Standard Coefficient Of Friction (SCOF) must be 4.5 or less.

Sample material to be tested must be taken from a production product and must be no less than 0.50" in width, have a leading edge with a radius of 0.25" and be of sufficient mass so that the last and sample material has a combined mass of 200 +/-10 grams. 1.5"x4.5" samples are typically punched.

Pattern #62 glass, cleaned and dry prior to use, at least 50% wider than the hand covering material sample contact surface (bottom of last) is clamped to a horizontal platform with its pebbled surface facing upward.

The test specimen attached to the friction sled (last with a combined weight of 200 +/-10 grams) is pulled across the pebbled surface of the pattern #62 glass at a rate of 150 +/-2 mm/min. The peak pull force is recorded.

Each sample shall be tested three times across the pebbled glass surface with 75 ±15 seconds between each successive pull test. The SCOF for each pull test is determined by calculation. The average of the three pulls shall be taken to determine the SCOF value for the glove or hand pad.

3. When tested there shall be no visible transfer of material from the palm/finger material to the test plate, the #62 pattern glass.

If add-on materials are recommended by the manufacturer or supplied with the glove or hand covering, the glove or hand covering must be tested both with and without add-ons. There must be NO transfer of the add on material in the test process or to the ball. Gloves and hand pads may not be reconditioned or treated in a process to restore the palm area. The only exception is a disinfectant spray or cleaner may be used.

TIME LIMIT OF CERTIFICATION

Once the glove or hand pad is certified there is no time limit on the length of the certification as long as the materials and construction do not change.

MODEL

For testing purposes models are designated by the palm/designated test area material and construction of the designated test area of the glove or hand pad. If the palm/designated test area material or the construction of the glove or hand pad is changed, then it is designated as a new model and must have a separate certification. A glove or hand pad with the same material and construction will be considered one model, though the color/graphic design may be different and may be labeled as separate styles by the manufacturer. The same is applicable to hand pads.

LABELS

Each glove or hand pad shall carry the following information in a permanent and legible manner.

1. Name of brand or brand logo
2. Model designation
3. Size
4. Month/year of production - Items 1 - 4 can be located on the exterior or interior of the glove at the discretion of the licensee.
5. An exact reproduction of the approved SFIA logo will be located on the exterior wrist opening of the glove and easily visible. On a hand pad, it should be placed in a manner that is easily visible by an official without removing the hand pad. The SFIA certifying mark must be easily visible from 5 feet with 20/20 corrected vision, including under game conditions. This includes appropriate color contrast between the mark and the glove material. The mark cannot be "hidden" in a graphic or pattern. If the mark is not shown appropriately, the glove cannot be certified. (See Attachment A to this document for correct mark)

All of the information specified above must be applied to the product in a permanent manner that would require defacing of the product to remove. Additionally, all of the required information must be on the consumer packaging of the product in a manner that is easily accessible/visible for consumer reference.

Information that warns the user that the glove/hand pad can be altered by contact with common substances and this contact may void the product certification and should be listed. Any recommended

cleaning agents or procedures, or both that can be used without altering glove performance should be listed

PROTOCOL

1. The SFIA Specification, **FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3** for football gloves and hand pads is a manufacturer's self certified specification.

The initial certification can be done in the test facility of the licensee's choice. The licensee will provide a list of football glove and hand pad models certified to the specification to SFIA by March 1 annually. It is recommended a copy of all test results be maintained for purposes of supporting the certification to the specification should it be needed. Those reports should include: name of the test lab and technician; model of each glove tested; test conditions; test results, noting pass or fail.

2. Football gloves and hand pads must continue to meet the current SCOF of 4.5 or less based on a sliding friction test. There shall be no visible transfer of material from the palm material to the test material. The certification is for products without any add on materials applied to the test surface.

3. Football gloves and hand pads must meet the Peel Adhesion of 2 N or less based on a peel test. The certification is for products without any add on materials applied to the test surface.

4. Models are designated by the palm/designated test area material and construction of the designated test area of the glove or hand pad. A glove model that remains unchanged for the following year does not need to be retested for initial certification, but will be tested in the validation process.

5. Each new model of glove that is submitted as certified for the upcoming season will be validated, annually, by a third party test lab chosen by SFIA. The test lab will purchase the product at retail and test a sample of each model glove certified. Cost of the validation testing will be paid to the lab by each brand. If a glove model fails

these test verifications, the lab will notify SFIA and contact the brand to test additional samples to determine if the model should be deleted from the list of gloves meeting the specification. If, on additional testing it was shown the model was non-compliant to the SFIA Specification, **FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3**, the glove model would be taken off the approved list and the NFHS and NCAA would be notified.

6. SFIA maintains a webpage on [SFIA.org](https://www.sfia.org) that list all certified products. This page will be duplicated and/or linked to the NFHS and NCAA websites. SFIA will provide the certified listings to the NFHS and NCAA. The listing will be updated on a regular basis.

7. SFIA Specification, **FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3 2023** includes a “contested product program” as part of the specification, which allows a participating company that does not feel a competitive product meets the specification to contest the certification of that model. Testing will be done by the SFIA Validation Test Lab. Testing cost will be charged to the company that initiates the test, unless the product is shown not to meet the specification in which case the company out of compliance will pay all test costs. The challenged company will have 60 days to prove compliance if their product test out of the certification limits, and, if needed, have products recertified. To initiate a test please contact the SFIA program administrator. Testing must be done by the SFIA Validation Test Lab. Other test results will not be accepted for determining certification status.

8. Required implementation date for the SFIA Specification, **FBG - V.003 – 2024 Q3** is any football gloves and hand pad product produced after **Q2 - 2024**. When the licensee has signed the SFIA license agreement and the glove has passed third party testing by Exponent, the licensee is free to begin using the SFIA Specification mark in manufacturing.

ATTACHMENT A



REQUIRED SFIA MARK