

SFIA Specification Arm Coverings for American Football
FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q2
Mandated by Rule for September 1, 2027
Final

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS AND PROTOCOL FOR
FOOTBALL ARM COVERINGS

This SFIA Specification, **FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q2** is a manufacturer's self-certified specification with independent lab validation that assures arm coverings for football play do not exceed the allowed tackiness.

This is a product performance specification. This is not a product safety standard.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The scope of this specification includes all football arm coverings constructed from silicone and composites of fabric and silicone. The silicone, or equivalent alternate material, is intended to add tackiness to the sleeve and necessitates testing to confirm it meets the performance requirement set forth in this specification. Fabric only coverings are not intended to be SFIA certified; however, a lower limit for peel adhesion has been provided to a threshold for fabric sleeve performance where needed.

The performance requirements will be tested on material intended to cover the arm, facing inward, which includes the upper bicep to the wrist.

The specification itself is wholly specific and exclusive to inward sleeve surfaces from upper bicep to wrist. No other aspects of the arm sleeve are to be considered or tested by the specification. If the sleeve is attached to a glove, the glove and sleeve will still need to be certified as separate products. The performance requirements are pass/fail criteria.

Performance requirements are:

1. Peel Adhesion must be 2 N or less. A fabric only sleeve should have a peel adhesion less than 0.2 N.

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 sleeve shall be removed and trimmed to 1.5"x4.5", which aligns with the SCOF samples. The arm covering material exterior inward side of one sample should be bonded to the arm covering material exterior inward 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 sled 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 arm 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 (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

sleeve.

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

If add-on materials are recommended by the manufacturer or supplied with the covering, the 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. Coverings may not be reconditioned or treated in a process to restore the sleeve area. The only exception is a disinfectant spray or cleaner may be used.

TIME LIMIT OF CERTIFICATION

Once the arm covering model 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 covering test area material and construction of the designated test area of the sleeve. If the designated test area material or the construction of the sleeve is changed, then it is designated as a new model and must have a separate certification. An arm covering 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.

LABELS

Each arm covering 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 arm sleeve 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 arm covering and easily visible. The SFIA certifying mark must be easily visible from 5 feet with 20/20 corrected vision, under game conditions. This includes appropriate color contrast between the mark and the sleeve material. The mark

cannot be “hidden” in a graphic or pattern. If the mark is not shown appropriately, the sleeve 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 arm sleeve 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 sleeve performance should be listed

PROTOCOL

1. The SFIA Specification, **FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q1** for football arm Coverings 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 arm Coverings 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 arm sleeve tested; test conditions; test results, noting pass or fail.

2. Arm Coverings must meet the SCOF of 4.5 or less based on a sliding friction test. There shall be no visible transfer of material from the sleeve material to the test material. The certification is for products without any add on materials applied to the test surface.

3. Arm Coverings 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 arm sleeve test area material and construction of the designated test area of the Arm sleeve. An arm sleeve model that remains unchanged for the following year does not need to be retested for initial certification, but may be tested through the validation process.

5. Each new model of arm sleeve that is submitted as certified for the upcoming season may 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 sleeve certified. Cost of the validation testing will be paid to the lab by each brand. If an arm sleeve 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 arm Coverings meeting the specification. If, on additional testing it was shown the model was non-compliant to the SFIA Specification, **FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q1**, the sleeve model would be taken off the approved list and the NFHS and NCAA would be notified.

6. SFIA maintains a webpage on SFIA.org that list all certified products. This page will be duplicated and/or linked to the NFHS and websites. SFIA will provide the certified listings to the NFHS. The listing will be updated on a regular basis.

7. SFIA Specification, **FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q1** 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 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, **FAS - V.001 – 2025 Q1** is any arm sleeve product produced after **Q3 - 2026**. When the licensee has signed the SFIA license agreement and the sleeve 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

