

Official Quality Inspection in China

PFI's Asia-based subsidiaries give an account of the rigorous inspections performed on manufactured goods in China: The government agency [AQSIQ \(General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China\)](#) recently published two reports concerning spot checks on manufactured goods, one of which reviewed the quality spot checks performed in 2015 and the other one addressed the quality checks planned for 2016.

Product Inspection in 2015

AQSIQ recently published on its official website an overview of the quality spot checks performed in 2015. These spot checks covered manufacturers as well as distributors selling goods via all possible distribution channels, whether wholesale, retail, or by way of internet sales. The categories of goods spot checked included: articles of daily use and textiles; electronics and household appliances; agricultural materials; machinery and security system; electrical products and materials; building and decorating materials; food industry related products. Details published for the category of articles of daily use and textiles are as follows:

Various product groups were subjected to spot checks. 24 of these product groups came from the areas of children's, toddlers' and babies' clothing, as well as women's underwear, children's vehicles, and roller skates from 2984 enterprises. Inspections on articles of daily use and textiles accounted for 12% of all inspected enterprises.

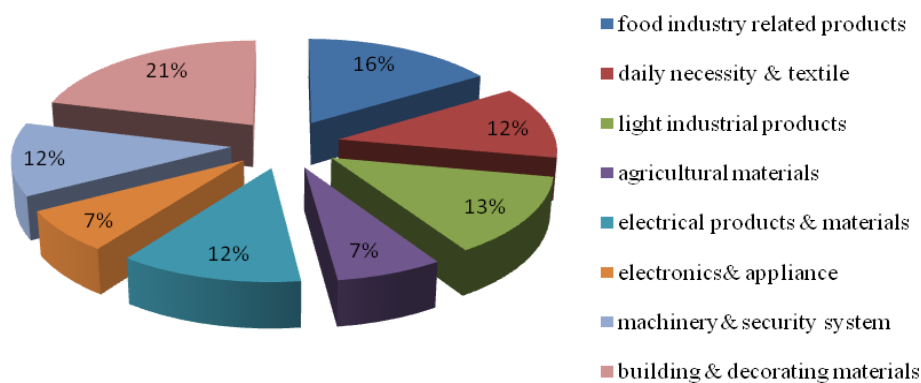


Figure 1: Breakdown of enterprises (product groups inspected by AQSIQ in 2015)

Analysis of Results Obtained for the Category «Articles of Daily Use and Textiles»

The 2015 qualification rate for this category was 87.0%, 1.2 percentage points lower than that in 2014. The rate for down garments was up to 100%; the rates for toys, cashmere knitted goods, knitted underwear, sportswear, wadding fiber products, bedding, plush and cloth toys were above 90%. The rates for the five product groups: children’s, infants’ and toddlers’ wear; athletic shoes; leather shoes; women’s underwear; and children’s footwear were between 80% and 90%. The rates for the following product groups: sports shoes; cashmere knitted garments; casual clothes (machine knitted and woven); travelling cases and trolley bags; roller skates; handbags and knapsacks; silk quilts were below 80%.

The qualification rate for children’s footwear was 82.4%, the main reason for failure being the presence of Cr(VI). The rate of 88.1% for athletic shoes was mainly due to substandard flexing properties. Only 58.1% of roller skates passed inspection with poor brakes posing the main problem. The 90% qualification rate for knitted underwear was mainly due to the fibre content.

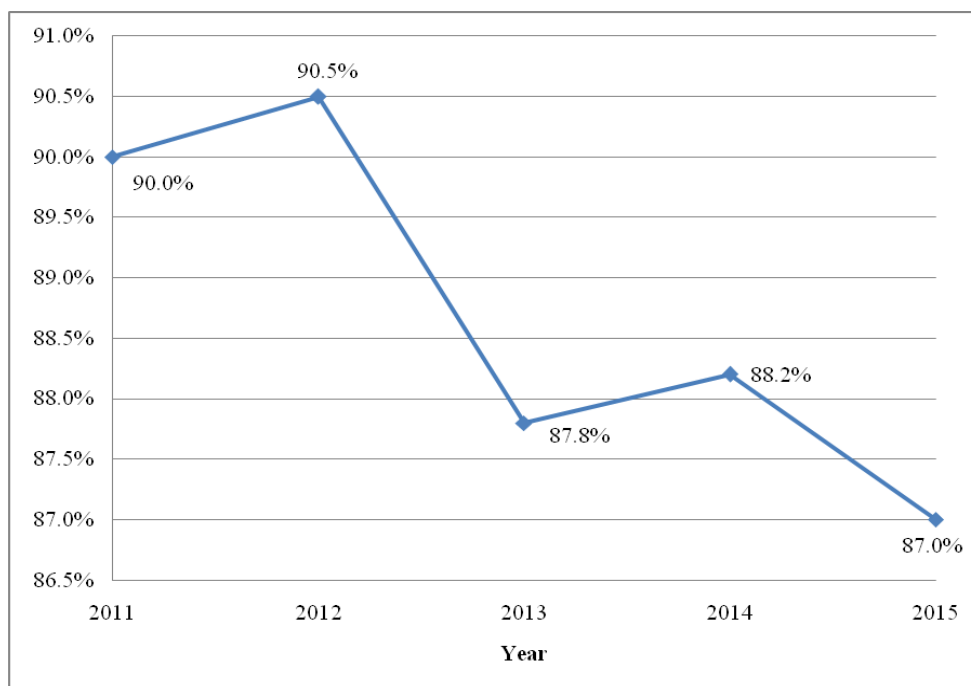


Figure 2: Qualification rate for articles of daily use and textiles over the past five years

AQSIQ has instructed the departments concerned to handle relevant products and enterprises in strict accordance with the valid laws and regulations.

Quality Inspection Implementation in 2016

In 2016, not only will more supervisory spot checks be performed on consumer products but the tracking of failed spot checks back to the responsible enterprises will be intensified in an increased number of categories. And spot checks will focus on certain production areas and enterprises, such as: knitted underwear, athletic shoes, women's underwear, roller skates, toothbrushes, soaps, etc.

As 2016 quality inspections proceed, AQSIIQ has reported spot-check results for 25 kinds of products in a first group dating from December 2015 to February 2016: There were 116 unqualified batches of products detected out of 1447 from 1411 different enterprises, corresponding to a failure rate of 8.0%. The spot-check details for articles of daily use and textiles in 339 batches from 339 enterprises are as follows:

- **Knitted Underwear**

Spot checks performed: Formaldehyde, pH value, AZO dyes, colour fastness to water, colour fastness to dry friction, colour fastness to acid perspiration, colour fastness to alkali perspiration, fibre content, and heat resistance.

Spot-check results: Unqualified rate was up to 5.0%, mainly due to wrong fibre content and substandard pH value; AZO dyes and formaldehyde were all compliant.

- **Athletic Shoes**

Spot checks performed: Upper sole peeling strength, flexing resistance of finished shoes, outsole abrasion resistance, adhesion between outsole and midsole, AZO dyes, free or partially hydrolyzed formaldehyde.

Spot-check results: Unqualified rate is 5.6%, mainly due to flexing resistance of finished shoes, outsole abrasion resistance; one unqualified batch of AZO dyes has been detected since national quality supervision was implemented on the basis of GB/T 15107-2013 ATHLETIC SHOES.

- **Women's Underwear**

Spot checks performed: formaldehyde, AZO dyes, pH value, colour fastness to water, colour fastness to acid perspiration, colour fastness to alkali perspiration, colour fastness to dry friction, elastic recovery, fibre content etc.

Spot-check results: Unqualified rate was 8.9%, mainly due to AZO dyes, colour fastness to water, colour fastness to acid perspiration, colour fastness to alkali perspiration, colour fastness to dry friction, pH value, and fibre content. One unqualified batch of AZO dyes was detected, which was the first case in the last three years.

Products that fail to meet the national mandatory quality standard will be destroyed or technically disposed of. In particular, those enterprises which refused spot checks are to be suspended from producing non-compliant products. In the case of serious problems, such as AZO dyes detected in athletic shoes and women' s underwear, unsuitable brakes of roller skates, relevant government departments will intensify the follow-up and supervision of manufacturing enterprises.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact:

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