

# V-TRUST INSIGHTS

## August 2020



## QC Tips | How to Set a Product's Quality Level for Your Supplier

Did you ever have difficulty in explaining your product requirements to supplier? Setting up a quality level for your production is not always easy.

Turn your attention to the tools you can use to assure quality and communicate it right even if you are based on the other side of the world!

### 1. Golden sample

What can be clearer than the real "ideal example" of your product? A confirmed pre-production sample is the main tool in your QC box, since it represents your requirements, hopes and beliefs of what you expect to get out of bulk production. Your sample should represent the materials, components, workmanship, marking and packing of your expected product.

The best time to confirm the sample is before the production starts, so that you can identify needed components and materials for its manufacturing; and pre-production, when 0-1% of your order was started to be produced. Checking it this time would allow you to know the quality and workmanship of your order and to manage production timely in case something is wrong.

### 2. CDF or Tech-pack

When it comes to an own design of a product, having a CDF or a Tech-pack is helpful to create a quality standard for all of your factories and keep orders more organized.

CDF (Component Data Form) – is widely used for electrical products, it is a drawing of your products with components and specifications mentioned. Ask your inspector to check CDF and production sample during internal check, to make sure that supplier didn't switch to lower quality components.

Tech-pack – is commonly applied in textile and furniture industry, it indicates a drawing of your product with materials, color cards and dimensions. A Tech-pack is also used during inspection to make sure that production conforms requirements.

### 3. List of defectives

In many cases what you consider a defect, is completely not a problem in the factory's eyes. By creating a list of defectives for your supplier you set up an example of a "defective product" to your supplier. Write down what you consider Critical, Major and Minor defects and enclose the pictures of defects in the list.

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## Insights

### Top-10 Shoe Defects Every Buyer Should Know



Everyone can appreciate the value of a good shoe. In order to retain and keep your customers happy, it's important to maintain good quality standards for your products. The most efficient way to do that is to recognize the most common defects and proactively address them to avoid disruptions in your supply chain. To that end, we'll share with you the top 10 defects that V-Trust inspectors always look out for in shoes during a pre-shipment or during-production inspection.

#### 1. Opened seam

An open seam anywhere on the shoe constitutes either a critical defect in baby products, or a major defect in other products. It can seriously affect the product function and structural integrity.



Causes:

The wrong thread was used, or the thread did not have enough strength to support the tension during sewing  
Faulty sewing process, such as the under thread is missing or too loose, so it lacks the support for the top seam.

#### 2. Broken stitches

Broken stitches are a major defect in every product, no matter where it is located on the product itself, as it can compromise the structural integrity.

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## Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement Taking Effect on the 1st of August, 2020!

Without any doubt Vietnam has become a major success story in terms of goods export over the last 10 years, from \$57.1 billion to \$264.1 worth of exports in 2019. That's almost a 5 times increase and it may only be the beginning!

Indeed Vietnam is involved in numerous Free Trade Agreement and the biggest of all is just now coming into effect with the EVFTA (European Union – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement) ratified last June by the Vietnamese government and taking effect on the 1st of August 2020. Both the European and the Vietnamese Parliament have now ratified the agreement. Implementation is set for the 1st of August 2020.



### What is the EVFTA (European Union – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement)?

This FTA almost completely eliminate all customs duties between the two blocks (99% of them). 65% of duties on EU exports to Vietnam will disappear as soon as the FTA enters into force, while the remainder will be phased out gradually over a period of up to 10 years. Regarding Vietnamese exports to the EU, 71% of duties will disappear upon entry into force, the remainder being phased out over a period of up to 7 years.

### How does it impact me and my company? Are my products included in this Free-Trade agreement?

Let's say you are already importing consumer goods (furniture, textile or electronic) or planning to import from Vietnam (this is probably the reason why you are now reading us J). Let's see how you can benefit from this agreement and it can push you importing from Vietnam.

Importers looking to take advantage of the recently ratified EVFTA must understand and comply with rule of origin guidelines. Products will benefit from the tariff preferences under the EVFTA rules of origin provided that they can prove that they are "originating" from there. Products are considered originating under the agreement if they meet one of the following requirements:

- ▶ Wholly obtained and manufactured in Vietnam with spare parts or raw material from Vietnam.
- ▶ Or products produced in Vietnam with materials that have undergone sufficient working or processing within Vietnam.

You can check the full lists of products imported from Vietnam to EU with 0% tariff thanks to the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 12th of June 2020. Click here for the link to the full article. You can then search your product with the HS code.

As you can see consumer goods are already affected by the EVFTA without any restrictions. From furniture products to home decorations, garment, footwear and electronic consumer goods.

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## Regulation Updates



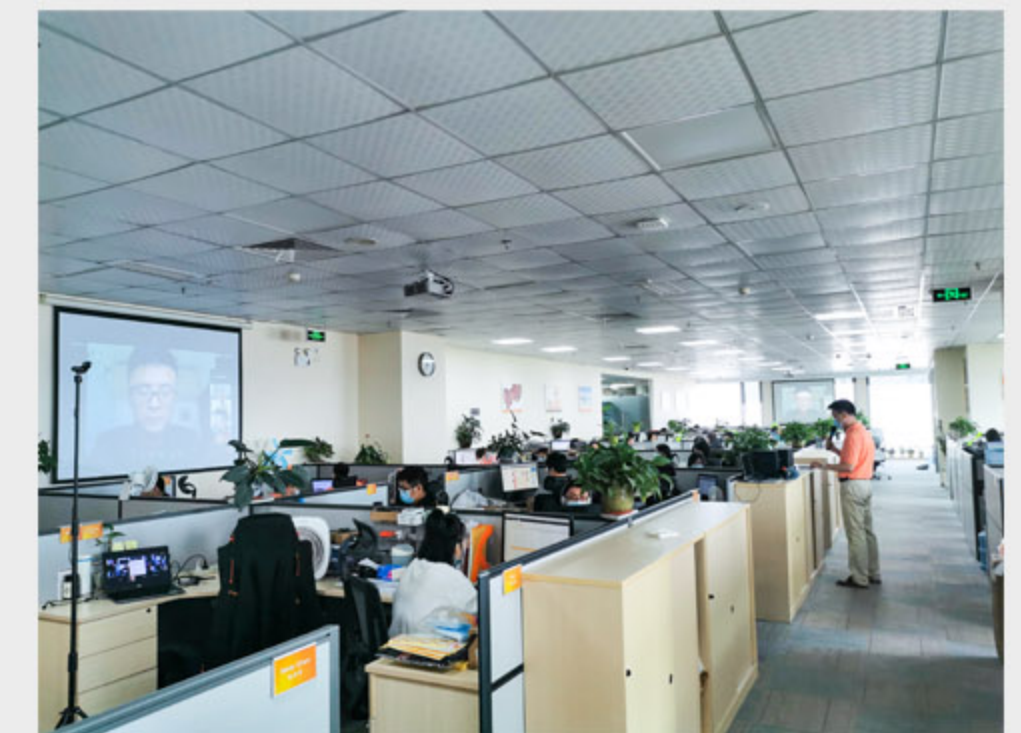
ECHA have added 4 new substances to REACH SVHC list, updating the list of substances of very high concern in total to 209 restricted items.

- ▶ Vinylimidazole and 2-methylimidazole, which are used as intermediates in the production of polymers, are included due to being toxic for reproduction
- ▶ Butyl 4-hydroxybenzoate, which is used in cosmetics and personal care products and pharmaceuticals, is included to the prohibited list due to having some endocrine disrupting properties.
- ▶ Dibutylbis (pentane-2,4-dionato-O,O')tin, which is used as adhesives, sealants, machine wash liquids, paints and coatings, etc., is also included into the SVHC list due to being toxic for the reproduction.

Importers and producers of articles containing the substance have six months from the date of its inclusion in the Candidate List (16 June 2020) to notify ECHA.

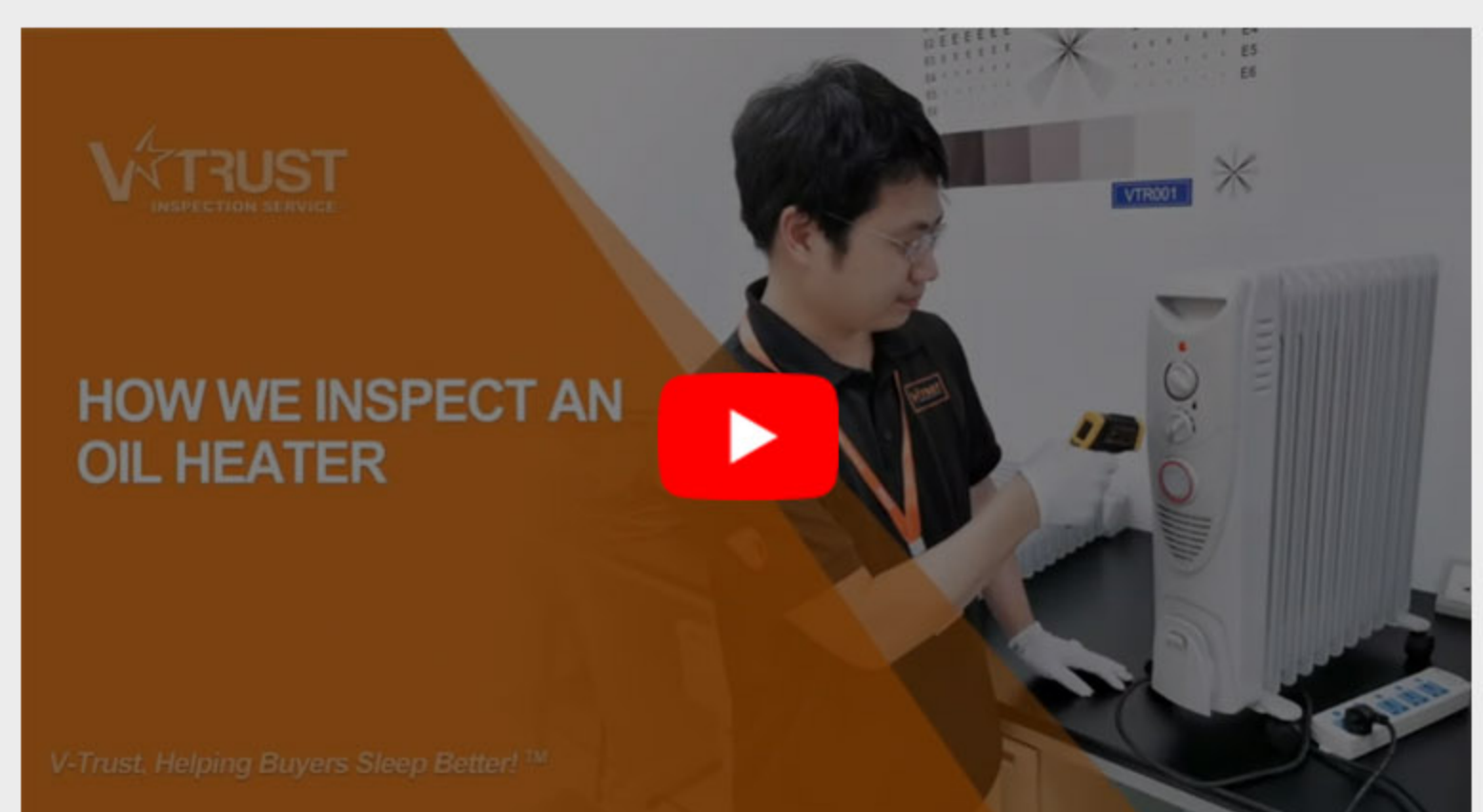
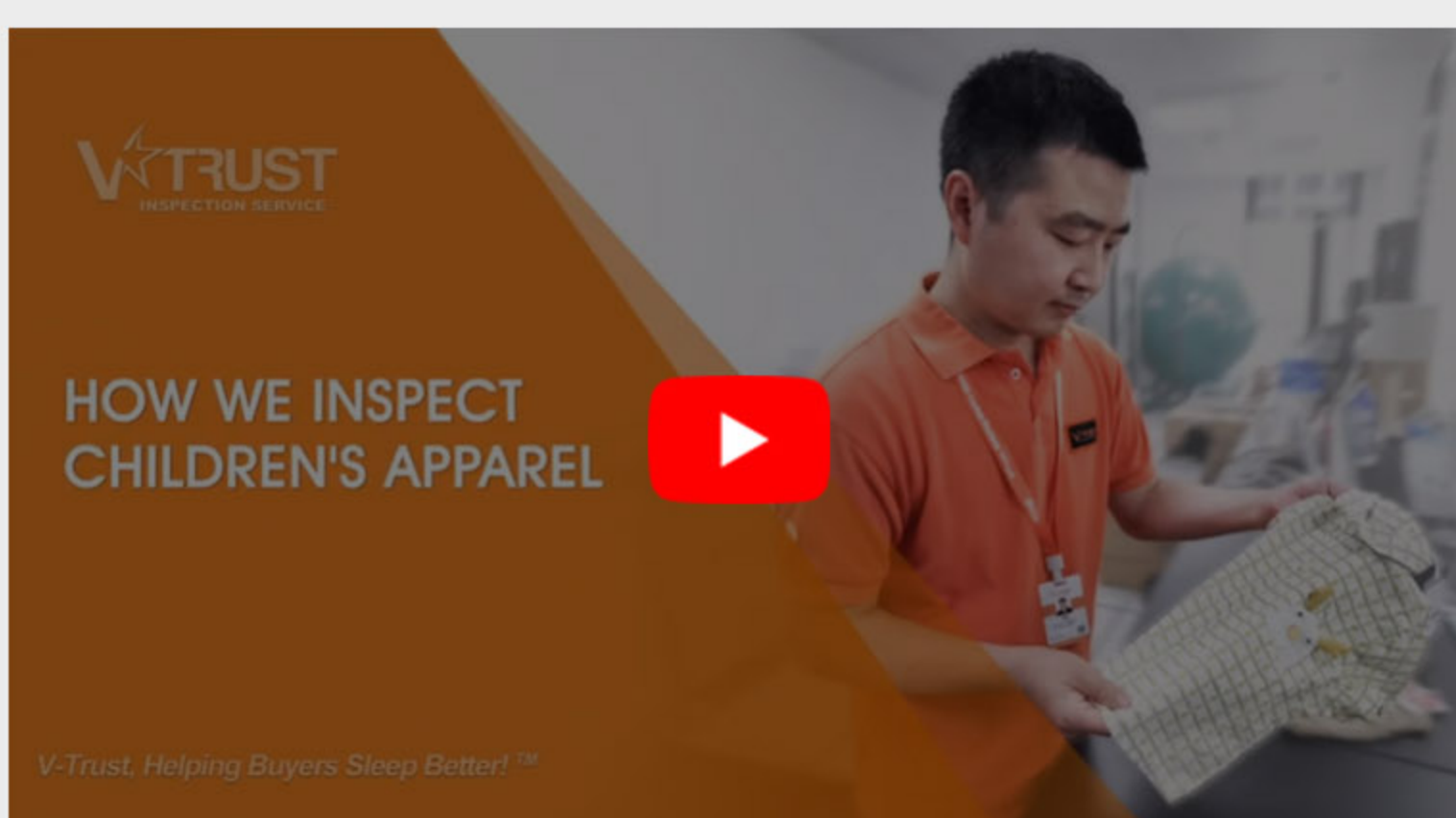
## V-Trust Team

V-Trust prioritizes regular updates of the skills and the training of our inspectors teams as it helps in addressing the industry needs and learning objectives as well as the requirements of our clients. Typically, the teams are instructed by our technical management who offer key insights into how best to structure the desired learning outcomes for the training program. Whether it's in-house or on-site trainings, or weekly trainings via video conferences where we discuss goals and latest updates with all our branch offices in other Asian countries, our team keeps on improving to the best of our customers



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