

Directive 94/11/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 23 March 1994 specifically relates to the internal market for the footwear industry.

Full text of the Directive and explanatory note

Directive 94/11/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 23 March 1994, on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to labelling of the materials used in the main components of footwear for sale to the consumer (Official Journal L 100 , 19/04/1994 p. 0037 - 0041).

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A) Background

Different provisions in Member States on footwear labelling created obstacles to the functioning of the internal market. Consumer interests need to be protected by correct information. Risk of fraud for both consumers and industry will be reduced.

B) Scope

Labelling of the materials used in the main components of footwear for sale to the consumer (Art. 1)

Only materials covering at least 80% of the surface areas or 80% of the volume of the outersole shall be labelled. If no one material accounts for at least 80%, information should be given on the two main materials used (Art. 4).

C) Structure of the Directive

The Directive contains 7 Articles and 2 Annexes.

The 7 Articles describe the conditions, the rules, and the procedures for the placing of the labelling or marking system.

For instance:

The labelling shall convey information relating to the three parts of the footwear: the upper, the lining and the sock, and the outersole (Art.1).

Either pictograms or written indications may be chosen (Art 3).

The label must be visible at least on 1 shoe of the pair by printing, sticking, embossing or using attached labels (Art. 3).

The manufacturer is responsible for supplying the label and for its accuracy. If he is not established in the Community, the person who first places the footwear on the market is responsible (Art. 4).

The 2 Annexes specify:

Definition and corresponding pictograms or written indications concerning the parts of the footwear to be identified (Annex I).

Definitions and corresponding pictograms of the materials (Annex I).

Examples of footwear covered by this directive (Annex II).