



## FRANCE: Intertek audit to assess sandblasting impact

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Auditing, testing and inspection firm Intertek has developed a new Sandblasting Assessment & Management programme (SAM) in response to industry-wide concerns about the dangers the sandblasting process poses to workers' health.

Intertek says its new program enables brands and retailers to assess the impact of sandblasting in production facilities located throughout their global supply chains.

A number of clothing brands and retailers, including Levi-Strauss, Hennes & Mauritz ([H&M](#)), and [George at Asda](#) have already pledged to stop selling sandblasted jeans.

The finishing process, which involves applying crystalline silica or sand particles to garments under high pressure, can lead to a serious pulmonary disease called silicosis if performed without the appropriate protective ventilation and safety equipment and in suitable working conditions.

The new assessment looks at sandblasting alternatives, preventive measures in place to reduce health risks for workers, the training given to employees on handling machinery and hazardous materials, management systems in place to ensure employees' safety, hazardous materials management process, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) enforcement.