



## KROGER GENERAL MERCHANDISE VENDOR AND LABORATORY MEMO

Document No.: KRGR-TXT-001  
Section: Softlines  
Revision : 05  
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# APPAREL TESTING PROGRAM

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This document establishes the proper procedure for executing Kroger's apparel testing requirements.

## 2 SCOPE

Applicable for all Kroger apparel brands including Dip.

All domestic and international suppliers and factories manufacturing Kroger's apparel brands regardless if Kroger or the supplier is the Importer on Record must follow this testing program.

## 3 PROCEDURE

### 3.1 Test submissions

3.1.1 For every test submission, an online electronic Testing Request Form (e-TRF) must be filled out completely and properly.

3.1.1.1 Submitters must provide both a factory ID number and a supplier ID number. Factories will use their Manufacturing ID number (MID) and suppliers will use their DUNS # as their ID numbers.

3.1.1.1.1 Include at least 2 e-mail contact information from the factory.

3.1.1.1.2 Include at least 2 e-mail contact information from the supplier.

3.1.2 Fabric TRF test submissions

3.1.2.1 All colorways must be submitted and at least one style needs be referenced on one TRF submission.

3.1.2.2 If fabric is used across multiple styles, all style numbers using the same fabric may be referenced on the TRF and test report.

3.1.3 Garment TRF test submissions

3.1.3.1 Identical style number(s) may be referenced in one garment TRF test submission.

3.1.3.2 Styles with the same prefix (e.g. **KGU9SL1000**, **KGU9SL1000P**, **KGU9SL1000H**, **KGU9SL1000X**) shall be treated as one identical style number and can be referenced on the same garment test report.

3.1.4 Fill in all fields on the e-TRF to prevent delays. Lab will contact the test submitter if there are missing information on the e-TRF which may extend turn-around time.



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3.1.5 Contact your local lab representative for any questions regarding the e-TRF.

### 3.2 Fabric Testing

3.2.1 Review Kroger testing protocols and ensure that the fabrics can meet minimally meet the specified standards and requirements.

3.2.2 Kroger GM testing protocols are available on:  
<https://docushare.cps.bereauveritas.com/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-14490>  
Contact GM Compliance Manager for access to the protocol.

3.2.3 Fabric must be approved by Kroger developers before submitting fabric for testing. The submitted fabric must be representative of the bulk fabric production material.

3.2.4 Each fabrication (meaning same fiber content/weight/construction) must be tested individually. Different fabrications must be treated as different fabrics and tested separately.

3.2.4.1 All colorways must be submitted for testing.

3.2.4.1.1 Test darkest colorway to full fabric protocol.

3.2.4.1.2 Test additional colorways to the additional fabric protocol.

3.2.5 Fabrics must exceed or minimally meet Kroger's standards and requirements established in our testing protocols.

3.2.5.1 Failing fabrics will be dispositioned online and be e-mailed to the suppliers.

3.2.5.2 Unacceptable failures will be provided to our Product Design and Development (PD&D) team and will be referred for cancelation or a request for a significant cost discount.

3.2.5.3 Retests for failures will be eliminated almost entirely. Retests can only be approved by Kroger Apparel Compliance Manager.

3.2.6 Suppliers or factories that refuse to discount failed fabrics will be allowed to continue to bulk garment production.

3.2.6.1 Doing this will result in a third-party lab during production (DUPRO) audit to pull random garment samples for full fabric and garment testing. Suppliers are required schedule random DUPRO pull from third party testing service provider. The pulled samples are then sent to the lab for the required testing. Suppliers are responsible for the full cost of the random pull audit and testing.

### 3.3 Garment Testing

3.3.1 Garments must be approved by Kroger development team for fit, style, and top of production before submitting garments for testing.



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- 3.3.2 Garment testing must be from Top of Production (TOP) and from the producing factory.
- 3.3.3 For adult garments, submit the darkest colorway, medium colorway, and lightest (non-white) colorway.
  - 3.3.3.1 Darkest colorway will be tested to full garment protocol; medium colorway and lightest (non-white) colorway will be tested to Appearance After Care test line.
- 3.3.4 For children's garments, submit all garment colorways for evaluation to the lab.
  - 3.3.4.1 Darkest colorway will be tested to full garment protocol; medium colorway and lightest (non-white) colorway will be tested to Appearance After Care test line.
  - 3.3.4.2 For printed garments, submission of additional colorways as panel prints or strike-offs rather than finished garment is allowed for chemical testing.
    - 3.3.4.2.1 Supplier is still required to submit finished garment in the darkest colorway, medium colorway, and lightest (non-white) to the lab.
    - 3.3.4.2.2 The lab is to review the finished garments to determine if there are any functional or non-functional plastics, metals, wood, or glass that requires additional chemical testing in the additional colorways.
    - 3.3.4.2.3 If the lab determines that there are possible trims that require evaluation for possible testing, the lab will inform the supplier and the supplier is required to submit finished garments for the additional colorways.
  - 3.3.4.3 Ensure that all colorways for children's garments are evaluated by the lab. Failure to do so may result in non-compliance and may hold shipment and/or result in an order cancellation.
- 3.3.5 All garments must exceed or minimally meet Kroger's standards and requirements established in our testing protocols.
  - 3.3.5.1 Failing garments will be dispositioned online and be e-mailed to the suppliers.
  - 3.3.5.2 Unacceptable garments will be provided to our Product Design and Development (PD&D) team and will be referred for cancelation or a request for a significant cost discount.
  - 3.3.5.3 Retests for garment failures will be eliminated almost entirely. Retests can only be approved by Kroger Apparel Compliance Manager.



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3.3.5.4 Failing garments cannot ship and will be cancelled unless an override is issued by Kroger Apparel Compliance Manager or a cost reduction is approved by Kroger developers.

### 3.4 GCC

3.4.1 Once garment passes testing, third-party laboratory will generate a General Certificate of Conformity (GCC) document on the supplier's and Kroger's behalf.

3.4.1.1 A GCC can only be generated with the support of a *passing* garment test report or an *overridden* failed garment test report.

3.4.1.2 All garment colorways must be referenced on the GCC.

3.4.1.3 If there are any inquiries on the GCC, contact your local lab.

### 3.5 Identical Styles Re-Ordered or Shipped at Later Deliveries for Adult Garments

3.5.1 Original test reports are only valid for 1 year.

3.5.2 If the garment uses the same fabric and colorway from original test report, retest is not needed.

3.5.2.1 Supplier or factory must contact lab to revise original test report and GCC to include new UPC #, PO #, SKU #, and other necessary details.

3.5.3 If the garment uses a new colorway(s) then fabric needs to be tested to the additional colorway fabric protocol and garments need to be tested for appearance after care on any 2 new colorways.

3.5.3.1 New test report must be generated. New GCC must be generated and reference original test report as well as new test report.

3.5.4 Changes on raw materials, material suppliers, process, production, design and factory will require retest.

### 3.6 Identical Styles Re-Ordered or Shipped at Later Deliveries for Children's Garments

3.6.1 Original test reports are only valid for 1 year.

3.6.2 If the garment uses the same fabric and colorway from original test report, retest is needed for regulatory test lines only.

3.6.2.1 New test report must be generated. New GCC must be generated and reference original test report as well as new test report.

3.6.3 If the garment uses a new colorway(s) then fabric needs to be tested to the additional colorway fabric protocol and garments need to be tested for appearance after care on any 2 new colorways.



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3.6.3.1 All new garment colorways must be submitted to the lab for evaluation for regulatory test lines. Regulatory testing must be performed if necessary.

3.6.3.2 New test report must be generated. New GCC must be generated and reference original test report as well as new test report.

3.6.4 Changes on raw materials, material suppliers, process, production, design and factory will require retest.

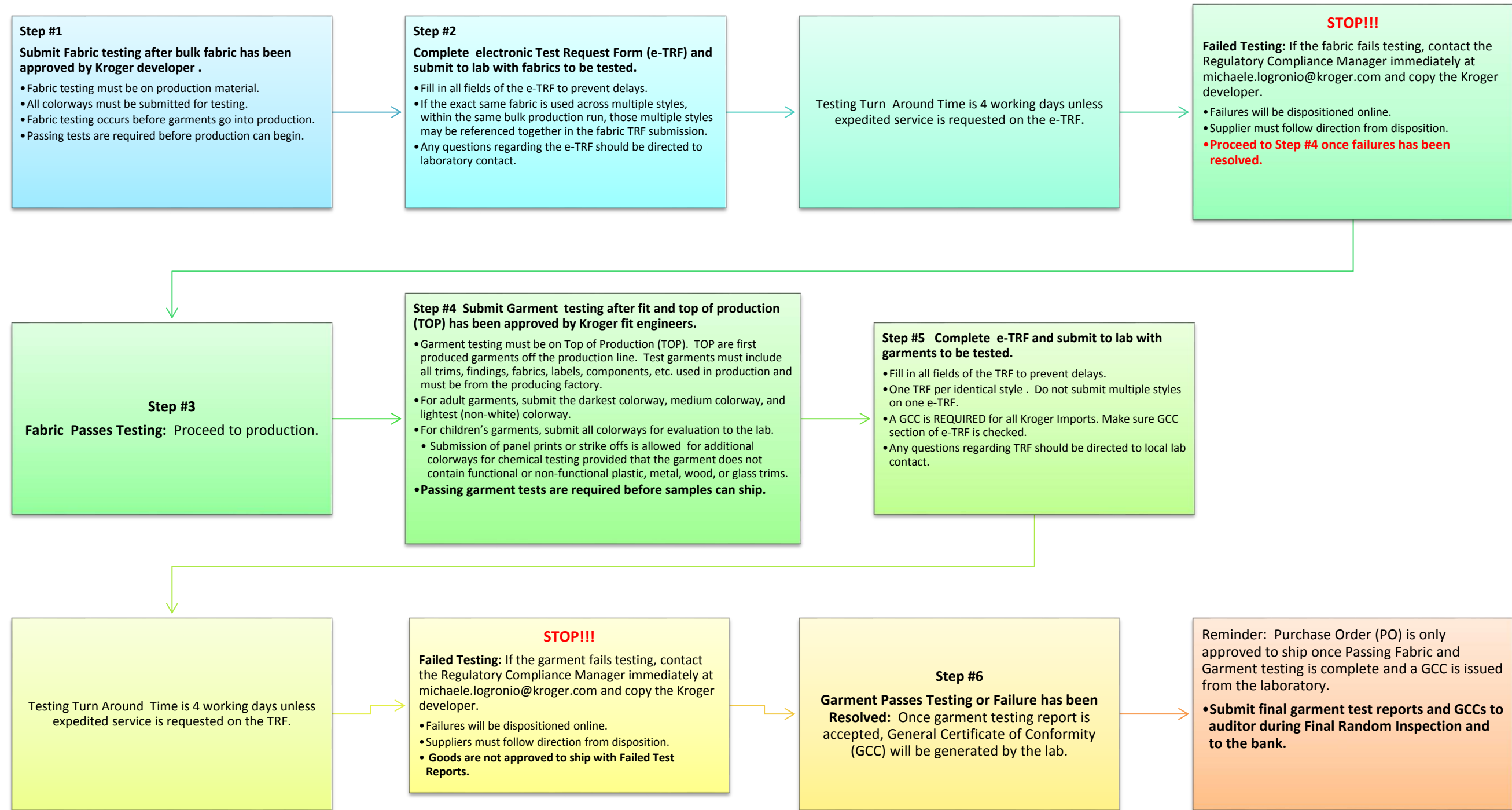
### Revision History

Rev. No.	Revision Date	Effective Date	Revision Summary	Revised by	Approved by
01	March 15, 2017	March 15, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- New Issue</li><li>- Original Author: Michael Logronio</li></ul>	Michael Logronio	Megan Liu
02	March 17, 2017	March 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Accounts for fabrics that are used across multiple styles.</li></ul>	Michael Logronio	Megan Liu
03	May 15, 2017	May 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Separation of requirement between adult and children's garments.</li><li>- Clarifications of different sections.</li></ul>	Michael Logronio	Megan Liu
04	June 29, 2017	July 12, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Clarification of children's garment submission and allowing panel prints or strike-offs to be submitted for chemical testing for the additional colorways. Requirement clarified on section 3.3.4.2, 3.3.4.2.1, 3.3.4.2.2, 3.3.4.2.2.</li><li>- Clarification on testing requirement for additional colorways shipped at a later period.</li></ul>	Michael Logronio	Megan Liu
05	May 6, 2019	May 6, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Update on Introduction and Scope.</li><li>- Elimination of paper TRF and movement to online electronic TRF (e-TRF).</li><li>- Addition of factory and supplier ID requirement for test submission.</li><li>- Update test failure disposition process. Most failures will now require approval for quality and/or request for charge-back from merchandising team.</li><li>- Clarification on allowing identical styles to be referenced on same test report.</li><li>- Clarification on allowing test report revisions for identical styles shipped at later deliveries.</li><li>- Update Process Map.</li></ul>	Michael Logronio	Megan Liu



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