

FIFA Quality Programme for wearable EPTS devices

How to obtain the International Match Standard approval

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FIFA®

The Laws of the Game 17/18 were updated to account for the use of Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems (EPTS; Law 4) and introduced the minimum standard that should be met by any wearable tracking system that is to be used in match. Any such device must meet the International Match Standard standard as set out in the newly-launched FIFA Quality Programme for wearable EPTS devices.

Electronic communication

Players (including substitutes/substituted and sent off players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic or communication equipment (except where EPTS is allowed). The use of any form of electronic communication by team officials is not permitted except where it directly relates to player welfare or safety.

Electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS)

Where wearable technology (WT) as part of electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) is used in matches played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, confederations or national football associations, the technology attached to the player's equipment must bear the following mark:



This mark indicates that it has been officially tested and meets the minimum safety requirements of the International Match Standard developed by FIFA and approved by The IFAB. The institutes conducting the tests are subject to the approval of FIFA. The transition period runs until 31 May 2018.

Where electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS) are used (subject to the agreement of the national football association/competition organiser):

- they must not be dangerous
- information and data transmitted from the devices/systems is not permitted to be received or used in the technical area during the match

The following document is a guide for any company seeking to produce wearable tracking devices that comply with the Laws of the Game. This requires the device to bear the IMS quality mark which can be obtained by adhering to the FIFA Quality Programme for wearable EPTS devices.

The FIFA Quality Programme for wearable EPTS devices was launched in 2017 with the aim of ensuring that wearable tracking systems used in football do not pose a danger to the players. Test criteria was developed following medical and mechanical testing and a test protocol reflects possible injury scenarios which are to be avoided. The tests are performed by accredited independent test institutes and positive test reports are listed on the Football Technology Innovation website www.football-technology.fifa.com for end-user guidance.

Application Procedure for IMS testing of wearable EPTS devices:

Any manufacturer of wearable Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems (EPTS) may submit their product for testing in accordance with the test protocol set forth in the FIFA Quality Programme for wearable EPTS devices. The approval requires a positive test result and a non-commercial agreement with FIFA governing the use of the IMS mark.

Step 1: Requesting the IMS test

The wearable EPTS provider submits the company and product details that it wishes to test to FIFA through quality@fifa.org

Company and product details	
Company name	
Legal address	
Contact person	
Email address	
Phone number	
Name of product(s) to be tested	
Type of product (GPS, LPS, other)	

Upon approval of the application, FIFA will inform the selected test institute that it may start with the test. A non-commercial licence agreement for the use of the IMS mark will be drafted based on the above information and sent to the provider.

Step 2: Starting the wearable EPTS device impact assessment test.

This step may start before the conclusion of the licence agreement but approval of the product is subject to the agreement being signed.

The provider shall send the defined number of wearable units to the accredited test institute in accordance with the test protocol. The exact contact will be provided by FIFA once step 1 is complete.

Accredited test institute
Sports Labs Ltd 1 Adam Square Brucefield Industry Park Livingston West Lothian EH54 9DE Scotland

Upon completion of the test, the test institute will send the final test report to FIFA once the test fee has been paid to the test institute.

Step 3: Product Liability Insurance and WFSGI pledge

Prior to countersigning the agreement, the wearable EPTS provider shall show proof of a product liability insurance during the whole period is an essential part of the Licence Agreement. This insurance is primarily in the interest of the licensee itself. If the national insurance market does not provide adequate insurance solutions, it is helpful and constructive to use an insurance broker with access to the international insurance market. The applicant has to provide written confirmation from the insurance company that the product liability insurance will be concluded as per the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement. **All the below criteria must be met.**

Product Liability Insurance – Minimum Requirements	
1	Name and address of licensee (policyholder)
2	Territorial scope of application: worldwide coverage needed (incl. USA & Canada), no exclusions allowed
3	Period – Coverage needed throughout whole contract period
4	FIFA must be named as a co-insured party
5	Coverage: A minimum of CHF 3 million per claim for bodily injuries, property damages and pure financial losses.

In addition, FIFA asks all manufacturers of the FIFA Quality Programme to provide a pledge from the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI) which certifies that production meets the industry standards. For details, please contact the WFSGI directly at pledge@wfsgi.org or +41 31 939 60 61 making reference to the FIFA Quality Programme wearable EPTS devices.

Step 4: Finalisation of agreement

Upon provision of a passed test report by the test institute, a signed agreement by the wearable EPTS provider as well as a compliant Product Liability Insurance, FIFA will emit an invoice for an administrative fee payable annually during the duration of the product licence.

Upon receipt of the payment, FIFA will submit the final report to the wearable EPTS provider alongside the countersigned agreement. The tested product will also be listed on the website www.football-technology.fifa.com as an IMS-approved wearable EPTS device in accordance with Law 4 of the Laws of the Game.