

Testing and certification – the benefits for prevention

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Testing and certification is a prevention activity that influences the safety and health protection provided by products *before* those products are put into use in workplaces or educational institutions. With this in mind, the DGUV Test testing and certification bodies have designed their services in line with the principle of tackling the very source of the risk, offering:

1. Detection and solution of health and safety problems

Testing and certification is beneficial in terms of prevention because it detects health and safety problems in products used in the German social accident insurance institutions' member companies and enables them to be remedied. This benefit goes far beyond merely determining conformity or non-conformity.

2. Continuous product improvement

Testing gives manufacturers the ability to deliver products that conform to the occupational safety and health requirements applicable to the German social accident insurance institutions' member companies – now and in the future. This ability has been proven to have a positive impact on products that are not subject to testing too.

3. Sector-specific risk analysis

The testing is based on a sector-specific risk analysis and assessment, designed to promote prevention and taking into account accident incidence and national and European regulations and standards. The aim of testing is to assess conformity in terms of occupational safety.

4. Focus on member companies

The focus of our prevention activities lies on the social accident insurance institutions' member companies, which derive a direct benefit from testing. As such, our prevention activities comply with Section 14(1) of Volume VII of the German Social Code ("SGB VII") and the DGUV's statutes.



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5. Support for technical innovation

Testing and certification influences the safety of a product from its very inception. It thus plays a special role in supporting technical innovations that promote safety and health.

6. Synergy with other prevention activities

The insights gained through testing and certification provide helpful input for other prevention activities. In particular, there is considerable synergy between testing and certification, research and development and standardisation. Combined with surveillance and consulting, this creates a control loop that helps ensure safer and more health-friendly products:



7. Certificates and certification marks to aid buyers and motivate manufacturers

We also offer certificates and certification marks for those products that pass the tests. As well as indicating to the member companies that the tests have been passed, they are very helpful when choosing which product to purchase. And they motivate manufacturers to make use of our services.

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