

FOOTWEAR
AND
LEATHER
FROM
SRI LANKA



The Footwear and Leather Industry in Sri Lanka has been identified as a value added manufacturing sector, which generates export revenue to the country. In the past, the industry's expansion has been gradual yet sure and purposeful; today the country takes pride in producing a range of high-quality footwear and leather products. The highly labour intensive industry demonstrates significant potential of being a key contributor to the country's economy.

The Footwear Industry currently employs approximately 40,000 people directly and indirectly. This includes 7 large-scale export companies, 30 medium-scale companies and around 3000 small scale manufacturers. In the Leather Industry, there are about 5 large-scale manufactures/exporters and around 1000 small timers.



Key Products and Varieties

A diverse range of modern shoes such as canvas and rubber boots, thongs, sports shoes and leather shoes are produced using different types of raw material. The bulk of the productions consist of up-market canvas and rubber fashion shoes both in cold processed and vulcanized construction. The rubber boot range consists of children's boots in attractive colours and designs, yachting boots, fishing boots, bean boots and boots for a variety of functional purposes including the military. A large volume of rubber flip flops (thongs) are produced both for the local and export market.





The leather footwear largely consists of products with leather uppers and out soles of rubber, Polyurethane (PU), Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or Thermo Plastic Rubber (TPR). A range of full leather shoes with leather upper and soles are also available for export. Beach slippers are made using a variety of raw materials such as rubber, EVA, textiles and environment friendly material.

In addition to manufacturing processed leather, the Leather Industry also produces small leather goods such as gloves, wallets, bags, purses, belts, and key tags.



Raw Material Base

The bulk of leather products made in Sri Lanka are made of imported leather. However, in recent years several local leather production units have been set up in the country. There are around 11 tanneries producing 25 tons of leather per day. Most of the large companies have their own tanneries. As the supply of locally tanned and finished leather is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the export industry, the government has allowed duty-free import of raw material to facilitate the industry.

Where the outsoles are concerned Sri Lanka has the advantage of having an adequate supply of good quality rubber including sole crepe of which Sri Lanka is the only producer. Several factories have the facility to produce moulded rubber soles. There are also a couple of factories equipped to manufacture TPR and PVC unit soles, while a few companies have also started to manufacture lasts and heels.

Export Market

Sri Lankan footwear exporters have already established themselves as suppliers of fashion footwear among well-known international brands such as Mark & Spencer, Bata France, H.H. Browns, Clarks, Aerosols, Nike etc. The country's leather products manufacturers also cater to famous international brands such as Play Boy, Laurel, Helen Kaminski, etc.





Since inception the USA and EU countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, and Germany have been the major markets for footwear and leather products.

Training the Labour Force

Apart from introducing measures to facilitate the development of the industry, the government has supported in setting up footwear training courses in state institutions to improve footwear producing technology and designing capabilities. The Industrial Development Board (IDB), Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) and National Institute of Technology (NAITA) conduct certificate courses on footwear manufacturing.

Footwear & Leather Fair

With the objective of providing recognition to the industry locally and internationally, the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) in association with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and other stakeholders organises the Footwear & Leather Fair. The first ever Footwear & Leather Fair was held in 2007, and has now become an annual event in the Sri Lankan Trade Fair calendar.

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board is Sri Lanka's apex organisation for the promotion and development of exports. It was established in 1979 under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40. EDB is the executive arm of the Export Development Council of Ministers, headed by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, which is the policy-making body of the EDB.

What We Do

We assist in negotiating business with Sri Lanka, either as an importer or an investor in export production.

Functions of the EDB encompass a range of activities such as promoting exports, organising buyer-seller meets, and exhibitions, providing essential information to both local and foreign entrepreneurs and assisting in the formulation and maintenance of quality standards wherever applicable.

The EDB is manned by a team of professionals, knowledgeable in their own specialized areas, who maintain close personal links with the respective sectors and hence highly competent in providing you helpful advice.

The EDB has on its Board of Management, representatives of both state and private sector organisations involved in export activities. Dedicated to the task of promoting more exports and better exports for the benefit of exporters and importers alike, the full range of its services are provided free of charge.

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



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