Knowledge, research and testing are SATRA's three pillars of strength. They have been supporting the products industries since 1919 and form part of the SATRA logo.
A trusted name in product supply chains

The SATRA name and brand is recognised and respected throughout supply chains in more than 70 countries.

Our knowledge, research and testing have helped improve the performance and safety of a wide range of products and materials in a variety of sectors, including footwear, leathergoods, clothing, workwear, toys, furniture, floorings, construction, cleaning and personal protective equipment (PPE).

You could say we are the unseen technical partner in many of the products that you use every day. There is every chance that what you are wearing, walking across, sitting on or washing with right now will have had technical input from SATRA at some point from design to market.

It is not just consumer products that benefit from SATRA’s technical expertise. Fire, police, military and other service personnel are often protected by products researched, developed and tested by SATRA.

And when you watch a sporting event, pass a building site or get on a train, spare a thought for the arena seating, the protective helmet or the high-visibility vest. SATRA helps to ensure such items are fit-for-purpose, either in its role as a European Notified Body, or through technical working groups chaired or attended by SATRA experts.
Where knowledge makes a difference

The knowledge SATRA has gained in almost a century makes it one of the most influential organisations of its kind anywhere in the world.

We use this knowledge to good effect for the benefit of our customers who need to bring product to market with a competitive edge.

SATRA can add value during or after testing or in the design stage. At whatever point you are, our technologists will know the technical adjustments that could make a difference and which are practical to achieve.

Our systems experts will know how brands and manufacturers can improve efficiency and make cost savings during production. SATRA has a pool of manufacturing knowledge which is essential in developing and delivering systems that reduce waste, raise workflow, balance a line and cost labour in advance. We aim to make our systems as user friendly as possible, so the information is turned quickly into practical application.

If it is accreditation or certification you need, SATRA advisors will know exactly what you need to do, and how to ensure your product or process is compliant. For example, we can help with REACH chemicals legislation, CE marking or ISO 9001 and 14001 for quality and environmental management.
Where research shapes the future

The SATRA research team has access to one of the largest databases of test results in the world and knows how to extract the relevant information according to the project. We can work with companies individually and confidentially, or with groups of companies with an interest in the same product sector. The objective is always to progress innovation so that new products are created which future markets will demand.

Knowledge gained through our non-confidential research is fed back to industry in various ways, including technical articles and seminars, and in the development of new SATRA test methods. Collaborative forums and working groups are sometimes initiated to take forward research findings in practical ways, for example sustainability and the search for meaningful product labelling.

SATRA’s research knowledge also forms the basis of SATRA test equipment, which is developed and manufactured by SATRA in the UK and sold internationally. It is often the starting point for customers wishing to build their own laboratory as part of the SATRA Laboratory Accreditation programme. This enables companies across the globe to test product at source with the supply chain reassurance of the SATRA name.
The modern consumer makes intense demands on products in terms of quality, performance, durability and value for money. Legislation requires products to be safe and fit-for-purpose.

To ensure expectations and standards are met, brands, manufacturers, global resourcing operations and retailers turn to SATRA to get it right, saving time, effort and money.

SATRA has purpose-built facilities and the expertise necessary for testing the physical, chemical, environmental and flammability properties of materials, components and whole products.

A SATRA test report offers an accurate interpretation of results and has considerable authority throughout the supply chain.

Product legislation itself can be complicated and time consuming, so we offer professional guidance through national, European and international directives, regulations, standards and test methods.

In addition, SATRA develops its own test methods which are recognised and valued in numerous consumer products industries. SATRA TM144 is a good example: globally recognised as the industry test method for establishing the slip properties of footwear solings. TM144 is used as the basis for many international standards.

Our guidance also takes the form of seminars and roadshows which are presented throughout the year and across the world. And we publish a variety of publications where testing procedures are outlined in detail.

Where testing counts
A technical pioneer for industry

We have come a long way since 1919 when SATRA was formed. After the First World War, the footwear industry was one of the forerunners in using technical innovation to improve the production of manufactured products. SATRA started by applying science as the craft of shoemaking shifted to a mechanised factory-based industry.

The original proposal for SATRA was to provide three main functions: a source of technical information; a research body; and a comprehensive testing facility.

Knowledge, research and testing are what we refer to as our three pillars of strength that support the products industries and which form part of our brand logo.

SATRA has contributed to many advances in the footwear industry. The boot worn by the British Expedition in conquering Mount Everest in 1953 was designed and built by SATRA.
We revolutionised footwear production with a process that became known as ‘heat setting’, which reduced production times and achieved consistent levels of shape retention.

As well as experience gained in established regions, SATRA consultants have been pioneers in new and emerging markets. For example, in Asia, SATRA was the first company to create a leather grading system accepted by Chinese tanneries and Western international brands.

More recently, we have been leading the way in understanding the slip characteristics between footwear and floorings materials, developing adhesives and solings, encouraging innovation in personal protective equipment (PPE) with the launch of the SATRA PPE Innovation Awards, and working with brands to help them unleash the advantage of 3D printing and virtual testing.
SATRA’s first annual general meeting was held May 26th, 1919. On the same day, the research association sub-committee accepted and registered 22 members.

Foot measurement being carried out in the 1920s.

SATRA’s walking platform being used in 1936.

HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited SATRA in 1949 to open new laboratories to be known as the Gloucester Block.

SATRA settled in Kettering in 1946 when it purchased Avenue House (later called SATRA House) in Rockingham Road.

SATRA received a request in 1952 to produce 35 pairs of boots to meet the requirements of the 1953 British Expedition attempting to conquer Mount Everest.
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

1971
Measuring flexing angles on women’s shoes in the then Shoe Engineering section.

1980
Pattern Scan was an early SATRA electronic device developed specially for measuring areas of upper patterns – a forerunner of the modern SATRASumm.

1990
Biomechanical studies led to the development of the SATRA slip rig and in 1992 the publication of PM144.

2000
SATRA produced the first prototype of its advanced moisture management test.

2010
SATRA officially opened the new office and laboratory facility of SATRA Technology Services (Dongguan) Ltd, a wholly foreign owned enterprise (WFOE) in China.

2011
SATRA Test Method TM144 acknowledged as the base standard for evaluating the slip performance of footwear and floorings for the US market.

1970

1980

1990

2000

2011

1965 & 1969
HM the Queen visited SATRA in 1965. In 1969 SATRA received the Queen’s Award for Industry, for its moist heat setting process, seen as one of the most significant technological contributions to shoemaking.

1980

2004

2012

1992

2007

2011

Pattern Scan was an early SATRA electronic device developed specially for measuring areas of upper patterns – a forerunner of the modern SATRASumm.

SATRA produced the first prototype of its advanced moisture management test.

Wyndham Way completed – an integrated state-of-the-art technology centre offering unrivalled research and testing for a wide range of consumer products industries.

SATRA officially opened the new office and laboratory facility of SATRA Technology Services (Dongguan) Ltd, a wholly foreign owned enterprise (WFOE) in China.

Pattern Scan was an early SATRA electronic device developed specially for measuring areas of upper patterns – a forerunner of the modern SATRASumm.

SATRA produced the first prototype of its advanced moisture management test.
Product testing

SATRA houses modern temperature and humidity controlled testing facilities in the United Kingdom and China. We can also arrange for the testing of products and materials through our offices or representatives in the United States, South America, Taiwan and Indonesia.

We can test most types of materials, including leathers, textiles, rubbers, plastics, metals and ceramics. Our laboratories are comprehensively equipped to test a wide range of products, including footwear, clothing, personal protective equipment (PPE), sportswear, furniture, floorcoverings and homeware. We can also test automotive, medical and construction products.

SATRA can test to national, European and international standards. For most materials and products, we have our own unique fitness-for-purpose performance guidelines.

Serving all product sectors is our chemical analysis laboratory, which can test for restricted chemicals according to legislation in territories throughout the world, including Europe (REACH) and the United States (CPSC).
SATRA uses its technical expertise to design and build some of the best test equipment available. No other test equipment provider has our level of in-house technical support.

SATRA test equipment is unique in having benefited from being trialled first in SATRA laboratories. This gives our customers a supply chain advantage as the SATRA name is recognised, respected and valued in more than 70 countries.

We are committed to the development of high quality machines and to high levels of customer service and aftercare.

SATRA continues to research and develop new test approaches, test methods and test machines, including developing machines to customer specific requirements.

SATRA test equipment is built in the United Kingdom and supplied across the world, to a wide range of industry sectors including leather, footwear, furniture, flooring, textiles and garments, PPE, rubber, printing and automotive, as well as to test laboratories and research institutes.
Research and consultancy

SATRA has worked with companies large, small, new and established, to help them regenerate and revitalise through research and innovation, exploiting technology to enhance materials and products so they have a cutting edge in home and global markets.

It is our diversity that helps make SATRA the leading research and technology organisation of its kind, where discoveries and findings in one product sector can lead to technological advancement and innovation in another.

Work includes the development of next generation materials and components, enhancing the performance attributes of products, optimising production and processing capabilities and meeting environmental legislation.

The benefits of SATRA’s research and consultancy services include unrivalled knowledge coupled with almost 100 years’ practical experience in helping companies bring products to market.
CE 0321
Accreditation and certification

Customers appreciate quality, and this can be crucial when deciding whether or not to remain loyal to a brand or supplier. Accreditation, certification and industry recognised awards play a vital role in the control of quality and, ultimately, in raising the value of the brand or supplier in the eyes of customers.

SATRA has developed a significant accreditation and awards programme that can be used to demonstrate a commitment to high and consistent product and service quality.

SATRA Laboratory Accreditation recognises that testing plays a vital role in the control of product quality and that in-house test facilities are seen as a wise move by modern manufacturers. A SATRA Accredited Laboratory certificate on the wall has proved a major selling point in helping to attract and retain customer orders.

SATRA Leather Grading Accreditation, the SATRA Cutting Award and SATRA Accredited Footwear Technologist (SAFT) are other programmes that have established industry value.

We offer a range of quality certification schemes for various industries, including our own SATRA Quality Mark.

SATRA is a Notified Body for the CE marking of products under the EU directives on personal protective equipment, toys and construction products.

All accreditation, certification and awards are designed to help maximise performance and the quality of product and process. They can raise product profile by association with the globally respected SATRA brand or other industry recognised marks.
Production efficiency

SATRA’s suite of production efficiency systems offers a unique blend of consultancy, process management and training.

Our systems have been developed over 30 years and installed extensively around the globe.

With every system comes the knowledge and expertise that is only found in hands-on experience. Installation is tailor-made and delivered on-site, together with staff training anywhere in the world.

Whether you want to cut it, stitch it, time it or plan it, SATRA systems have been proven to enhance production efficiency.

There are three main systems. SATRA Summ manages the efficient cutting of leather and synthetic materials, which reduces waste and saves materials cost. It includes leather grading, a five-point process which is unique to SATRA and accepted as the standard leather grading system in global supply chains.

VisionStitch is a complete stitching improvement package to increase productivity and raise quality.

TimeLine is an accurate system for costing factory labour and balancing product lines for better forward planning.
Standards and test methods

Test methods and standards are the key to ensuring product performance is measured accurately and consistently. Without them, testing is meaningless. SATRA’s own test methods are considered to be the most authoritative approach for a wide range of test situations and are sought after throughout the world.

As well as its own test methods, SATRA has a wealth of experience working with national, European and international standards. We are, therefore, in a strong position to guide companies through the relevant and most appropriate testing.

SATRA offers a Global Test Methods Service (GTMS) to search for national and international standards, and to ensure only the current and most appropriate test procedure is used. The service provides access to SATRA’s own test methods, and notification when standards and test methods are revised.
Training and knowledge sharing

A fully trained workforce means you can rely on your products being produced efficiently and to a high standard. Whether it is training in technical skills, an introduction to new technology, or a broad overview, your business will benefit.

At SATRA, we offer expert training for a range of consumer product sectors. Being a world leader with almost 100 years’ experience in testing and developing products for global manufacturers, our knowledge counts and our training is second to none.
SATRA published its first journal in 1935, the SATRA Bulletin, which is still published today as the leading monthly technical magazine for the footwear and leathersports industries. We also publish a version in Chinese for distribution in Asia.

SATRA World Footwear Markets is the original annual review of footwear production, import, export and consumption figures worldwide. Each new edition of the publication compares statistics for the past five years.

The SATRA ‘PPE Survival Guide’ website and iPhone app have become essential tools in helping companies supply PPE successfully to global markets.

Our online Spotlight technical articles are valued for their insight on the testing and certification of products. Whether you’re a manufacturer of hearing protectors, an importer of building tiles, a retailer of beds and chairs, or a trade publication writing a report on toys, SATRA Spotlight is a powerful resource.
SATRA membership

When SATRA was formed in 1919, it was as a membership organisation to provide the knowledge, research and testing that individual UK footwear companies did not have the resources to undertake on their own.

Since then, SATRA has grown into a global company serving a diverse range of product sectors, not all of which require SATRA membership. Our technical services to footwear and leather industries, however, remain member exclusive.

The SATRA member often enjoys a special advantage in the marketplace, not least in being able to display the ‘member of SATRA’ logo on stationery and in marketing materials. SATRA membership is not for everyone, but those brands, manufacturers and retailers who do join soon discover what it means to have SATRA as their premier technical partner.
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