Garment Quality Control Checklist

To do at home
on your samples

ModaMinds HUB

Summary

This checklist is not all encompassing.
Feel free to remove or add to it depending on your product specificity.

1. Seam Check

1. **Incorrect type of seams:** if your Tech Pack specify «french seam», this is what you shall get and not a serged seam instead.
2. **Uneven seam allowances:** they should be the same all over your garment, unless specified otherwise.
3. **Seam grin:** when pulling at right angle to the seam, if a gap forms revealing the thread, this means the seam is grinning.
4. **Misaligned seams:** the seams should be aligned - mostly if your design have yokes or is made in a fabric with linear patterns.
5. **Puckering seam:** when seams have a wrinkly or gathered appearance.
6. **Inside-out seam:** it can happen that the seam allowances are showing on the correct side of the garment - unless this is a wanted effect, this should be corrected.
7. **Open seam:** either the seam has not been sewn or the stitches broke.
8. **Seam slippage:** when pulling on the seam - lengthwise and widthwise - the fabric yarns should not separate, creating gaps in the fabric.
9. **Incorrect assembling order:** when the assembling order is wrong, it creates a messy look.
10. **Crooked seam:** when the stitching is not straight.

2. Stitching Check

1. **Broken or skipped stitches:** when the sewing thread breaks or when one or several stitches are skipped.
2. **Run off stitches:** it happen with topstitches mostly, this is when the stitching is uneven.
3. **Needle damage:** when the needle makes holes in the fabric or pull on yarns (which can happen with light fabrics like organza).
4. **Incorrect stitches per inch:** the number of stitches per inch should be as specified by the tech packs. Incorrect SPI can affect the seam strength and stitch appearance as well as the seam elasticity for stretch fabrics.
5. **Pleating/creasing:** when extra fabric is sewn in the seam and it creates a pleat or a crease.
6. **Stitches showing on an invisible hem:** invisible stitches should not show on the correct side of the garment.
7. **Insecure backstitch:** end of stitching should be backtracked, at least 2 or 3 stitches to secure the seam.
8. **Different repair thread:** the thread used for repair should be the exact same yarn as the original one: same color, thickness and composition.
9. **Incorrect thread colour:** the thread colour should match the pantone code specified in the Tech packs - either same colour as the fabric or contrasting.
10. **Wrong stitch tension:** a correct stitch tension looks smooth and flat on both sides of the seam. If there is puckering, it means it is too tight and if you can see the thread clearly inside the seam it means that it is too lose
11. **Raw edge:** this happens when finishing technique has been skipped or not been done properly. For example, side seam that has not been serged.
12. **Loose thread end:** this affects the finished look of your garment and can potentially lead to seam opening. Make sure thread ends are cut.

3. Ironing Check

1 **Wrinkles and creases:** the garment should be well ironed. It should not be wrinkly nor have crease marks.

2 **Ironing marks or burns:** the garment should not have any wrinkle or burn mark from the ironing.

3 **Incorrect ironing direction:** pleats, folds, darts, seams, etc... should follow the right direction. Make sure that joined seams are pressed in the same direction.

4 **Roping hem*:** when a hem has a wavy rope like shape. This can be caused by a poor pressing but also by a defective stitching method.
*Although this is seen as a defect on most garments, this is not always the case with jeans as it gives a more authentic look.

4. Trims Check

Fatigue test: open and close the fasteners several times to see if they stay intact and do not cause any damage to the garment.

1. **Incorrect colour:** each trim (buttons, zipper, etc..) should match the pantone code specified in the tech packs.
2. **Incorrect position:** each trim should be placed in the right location as specified in the Tech packs.
3. **Insecured sewing:** each trim should be securely sewn - do a manual pull test. This is even more important for fasteners: buttons, snaps, hook and eye, velcro and zippers.
4. **Fasteners misalignement:** make sure both ends of the fastener are aligned. For example, buttons should be aligned with buttonholes. Close the garment and check if the buttontab twists. If it does, there is misalignement.
5. **Tight buttonholes:** buttonholes should be easy to close but not too loose either. The correct buttonhole length is about 2mm longer than the button diameter.
6. **Wavy zipper:** the zipper should be flat. If it is wavy or bulging, it means it has not been sewn correctly.
7. **Wrong trim:** Make sure all trims match the tech pack BOM (bill of materials) - size, composition, type - and that the sewing method is correct. For example, if the Tech packs specify «invisible zipper», it should stay hidden.
8. **Damaged trims:** check for any form of damage on your trims. For example, dents on buttons, defective snaps, inoperative zipper, etc...
9. **Missing trims:** check that all trims are on the garment.

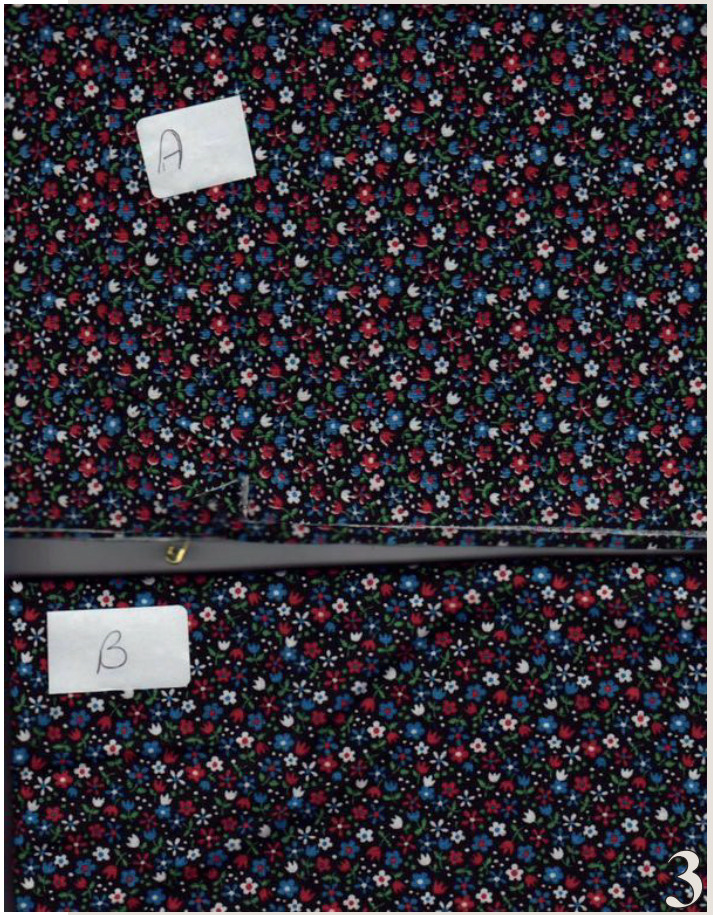
5. Dyes and Prints Check

1 **colour variation:** there should not be any colour variance between the different garment parts; sleeves, collar, cuff, button tab... - unless this is a wanted effect.

2 **Unmatching color:** the garment colour or print colours should be the same as your approved lab dip, following the pantone code given in the Tech packs.

3 **Print off registration:** this happens when one or several colours in the print are not printing in the right location.
In the picture, the print colours on fabric A are not aligned; if you focus on the red dot inside the white flower, you can see that it is off centre whereas on fabric B the red dot is placed in the centre of the flower.

4 **Incorrect print position**: If your design has a placement print, make sure it is located in the right place on the garment. For example, if your print is supposed to be on the left chest, check that it is actually there and not on the right chest or lower.



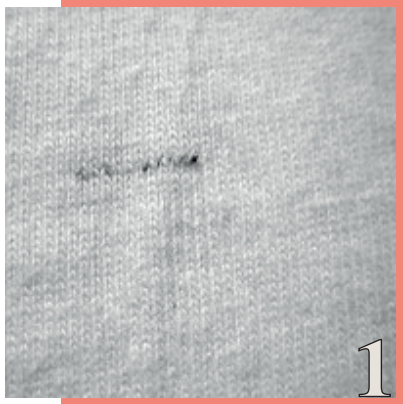
3

Rubbing test: rub the fabric with a dry white cotton cloth over a 10 cm distance under a constant force, and then do the same with a wet cloth. The printed fabric shouldn't smudge and the color shouldn't transfer on the cloth.

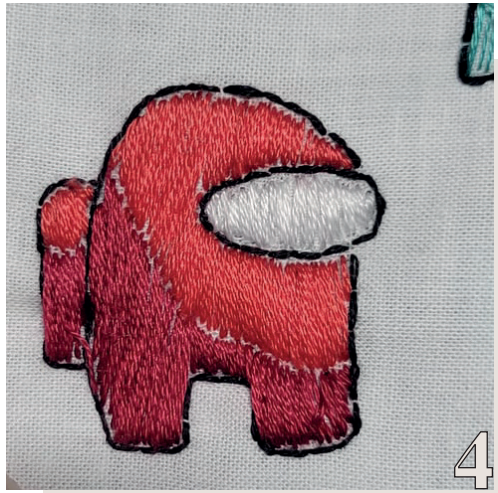
Before production starts, the factory Quality Control team will go through the fabric rolls meter by meter and look for defects. Each defect found will be marked with a sticker so the garment workers can cut around it.

6. Fabrics Check

1. **Yarn defect:** when yarns are uneven, broken or sticking out of the fabric which could lead to holes down the line.
2. **Fabric holes:** this goes without saying, if your garment has holes this is a major defect - unless this is a wanted effect.
3. **Dirt or oil marks and stains:** this can come from the fabric mill or the factory that makes your garment. Make sure your garment does not have any of these defects.
4. **Wrong side of the fabric:** Make sure the correct side of the fabric is on the outside of the garment.
5. **Uneven nap direction:** Some fabrics - like velvet, fur, satin - do not have the same appareance in every direction. Make sure the factory cut all the different garment parts (front and back, sleeves, etc...) following the same direction.
6. **Unpleasant odour:** some fabrics may have a weird odour so smell your garment to make sure it is not unpleasant. Sometimes, the odour comes out after a wash so launder your sample to double check.



7. Branding Check



LOGO

1 **Incorrect position:** make sure the logo is placed correctly as specified in the Tech packs.

2 **Incorrect direction:** make sure the logo is not upside down or tilted.

3 **Incorrect size:** make sure the logo dimensions are the same as specified in the Tech packs.

4 **Embroidery defect:** if your logo is embroidered, look for defects such as uncut thread, thread breakage, needle holes, fabric gapping, puckering, incomplete embroidery, etc..

LABELLING

5 **Incorrect content:** make sure the info written on your label is correct such as wash care, country of origin, fiber content - and if you are planning on selling in the EU, you need to add the factory's name and address.

6 **Incorrect position:** the labels should be placed correctly inside/outside the garment, as specified in Tech packs.

7 **Damaging application:** make sure that the stitching of your labels did not damage your garment or affect its esthetic. For example, label stitching showing on the outside of the garment.

8 **Incorrect label type and size:** make sure that your labels are the same as specified in your Tech packs. For example, embroidered damask with end folded.

9 **Damaged labels:** check for imperfections such as stains, tear, cut, stitching over, etc.. and make sure the text is clear and readable.

When you receive your fit sample, you will do a fitting on either a model or yourself making sure you are the same size as sample size.
Once this is done, the Tech pack measurements specifications will be updated.

8. Dimensional Check

1. **Incorrect measurements:** check the garment measurements against the sample size specifications. They should be identical or within given tolerance.
2. **Garment asymmetry:** when folded at centre, your garment should be symmetrical - unless specified otherwise.
   The most commun issue found is uneven neckline so pay extra attention to that.
3. **Uneven hem:** hem width should be the same from side to side and front to back.
4. **Uneven front and back:** when the garment is laid flat, the front and back hemline should be matching - unless specified otherwise.

Conclusion

This is **not a comprehensive checklist** but it will still give you a good starting point to inspect your samples at home.

Most of these checks would normally have been done by the factory before they ship the samples to you but it is always better to double check in case they may have overlooked some defects.

Why is it so important to do these checks at this stage?
The more things you check during product development, the more opportunities you get of catching issues and the better chance you have to get a high quality product.

Document all the checks done and defects found, and send it to the factory so they can rectify the issues. This same checklist will also be used by the factory Quality Control team during production. So this way you are sure that nothing will be shipped that is not following your quality standards.

We know it can feel like a lot of work but this is absolutely worth it!

The good news is that you don't have to do it all alone, we can guide you through it or even do it for you so you can sit back and relax!

Just drop us an email if you feel like you need more help.

hello@modamindshub.com

Once you are done with your checks, do not forget to do a WEAR test!
Wear your samples for a long period of time and wash them several times as well.
For example, if you are making activewear, make sure to wear your sample when you go to the gym. This way you get to see how it reacts and how it feels.