



WEARER TRIAL WITH GORE-TEX® EXTRAGUARD SAFETY BOOTS

DETAILS OF THE WEARER TRIAL

Wearer trial conducted by Gore in cooperation with Deutsche Bahn (German railways) and footwear partner HAIX, Mainburg, Germany.

August 2021 to January 2022: As many as 19 employees of Deutsche Bahn tested the HAIX Airpower XR27 safety boots engineered with innovative EXTRAGUARD upper technology in everyday use for roughly 26 weeks. The boots were worn by staff managing trees and vegetation, safety inspectors and service managers. Half of the participants had previously worn safety footwear equipped with a membrane.

72% (13 of the 18) participants wore the test boots at least 4 to 5 days a week for between 6 and 9 hours a day, slightly more often outdoors (68%) than indoors (in buildings or vehicles).

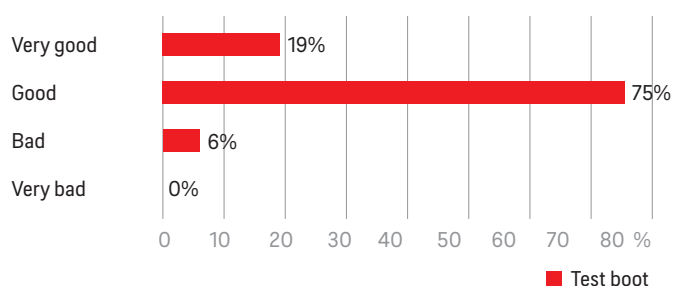
The boots were tested during various activities of Deutsche Bahn's rail track services – including track and vegetation inspections on difficult, uneven surfaces, track construction and maintenance work, and construction site inspections.

At the end of the 6 month wearer trial feedback was collected through a questionnaire and the data analysed by Munich-based agency Hyve*.

RESULTS OF THE WEARER TRIAL

ROBUSTNESS OF THE UPPER MATERIAL

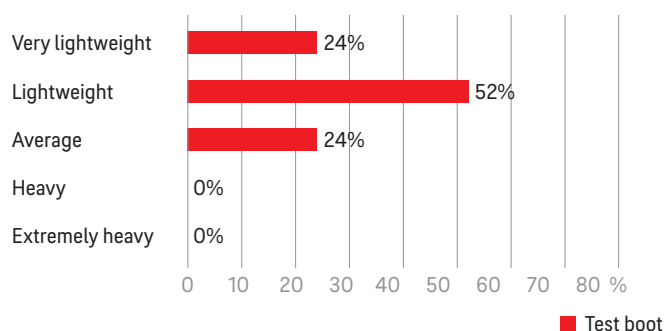
94% of the participants said the robustness of the upper material (in terms of wear and tear) was "good" or even "very good".



Robustness was important for the participants as it reduces the likelihood of damage to the upper material during work on the railway lines and offers good support and stability on sloping ground.

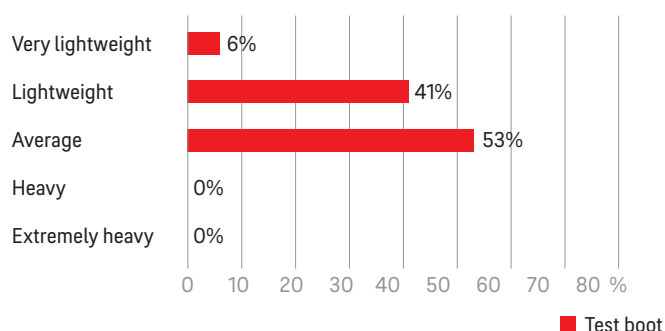
WEIGHT (WHEN DRY)

As far as weight was concerned, (when dry) the test boots were said to be better than the boots worn in the past. 52% said they were "lightweight", while 24% even thought they were "very lightweight".



WEIGHT (WHEN WET)

The light weight of the test boots (when wet) was the most positive-rated feature. 41% of the participants said they were "lightweight", while 6% even thought they were "very lightweight".



Roughly 24% of the participants said they found the weight of the test boots "slightly better" while 41% even thought they were "much better".

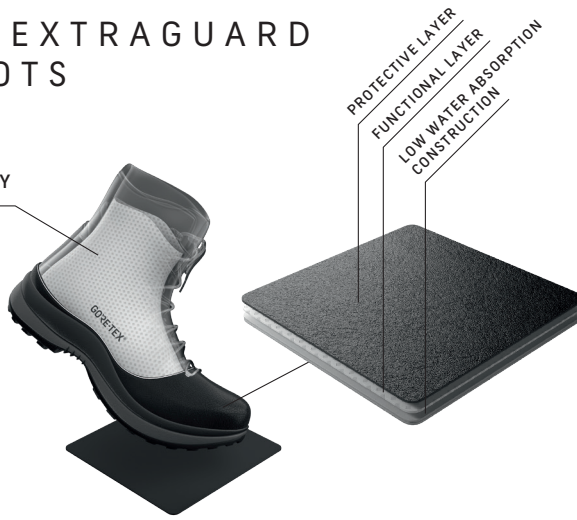
*"For all types of rail track work
– no fatigue, no sweaty feet."*

GORE-TEX® EXTRAGUARD SAFETY BOOTS



GORE-TEX® LINING TECHNOLOGY

- DURABLY WATERPROOF
- BREATHABLE
- CHEMICAL RESISTANT

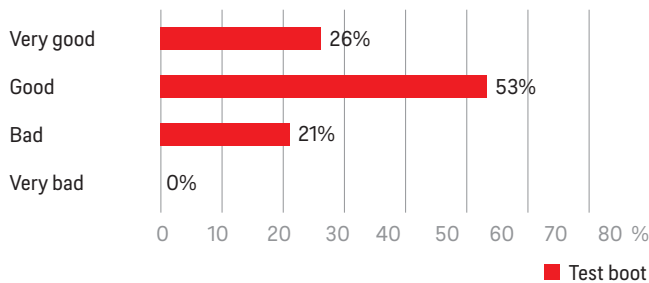


EXTRAGUARD UPPER TECHNOLOGY

- VERY ROBUST
- LIGHTWEIGHT
- STAYS LIGHT WHEN WET
- DURABLY LOW WATER ABSORPTION
- QUICK REDRY
- EASY CLEAN & MAINTENANCE
- REDUCED HEAT LOSS WHEN WET

QUICK RE-DRY

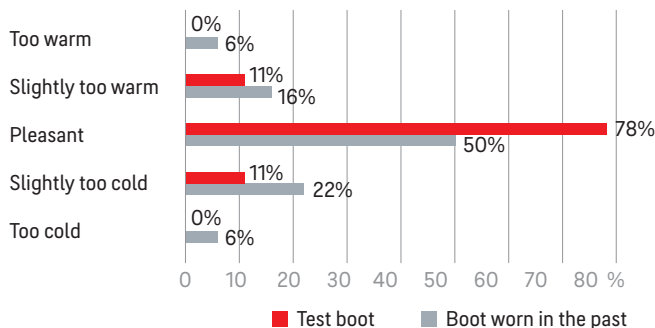
The test boots made a particularly good impression when it came to re-dry. 53% of the participants said it was “good”, while 26% even said it was “very good”.



63% of the participants preferred the test boots to the boots they had worn in the past. For them, the fast drying time was key to the boots being immediately ready to wear for the next task.

PERCEPTION OF TEMPERATURE

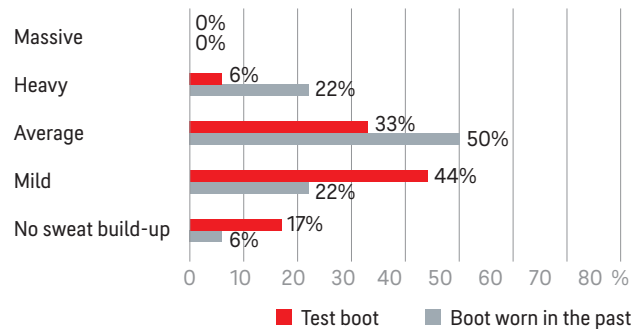
14 of the 18 participants (78%) said that the temperature inside the test boots was “pleasant”, particularly when the shoes were worn outdoors in low to moderate temperatures ranging from 1°C to 25°C, or indoors and in vehicles. In comparison, only 50% of the wearers could say the same about the boots they had worn in the past.



*“Monitoring and on-site inspections.
Comfortable over long distances
and a pleasant microclimate inside
the boot.”*

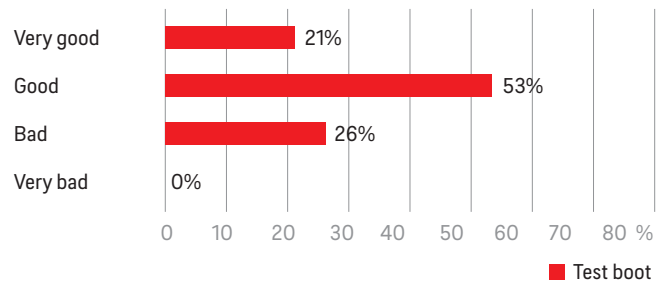
SWEATING

78% of the participants said that when performing a physically taxing task they perceived only “mild” sweating or an “average” amount of sweating in the test boots. In comparison, in the boots they had worn in the past 50% of the participants perceived “mild” sweating while 22% even experienced “heavy” sweating.



SENSITIVITY TO COLD IN WET ENVIRONMENTS (RAIN, PUDDLES, MUD)

14 of the 19 (74%) participants said the temperature inside the test boots in extremely wet conditions was “good” (53%) or “very good” (21%). When compared with the boots worn in the past, 58% of the participants said the test boots were “slightly better” (42%) or even “much better” (16%).



CARE / MAINTENANCE

All of the participants were very satisfied with the care and maintenance of the test boots. 81% of the participants said it was “good” while 19% even considered it to be “very good”.

