



## **Indian Standard IS 16994:2018 - Footwear for Men and Women for Municipal Scavenging Work.**

Indian Standard **IS 16994:2018** prescribes the **safety and performance requirements** for protective and occupational footwear used in municipal scavenging work. Municipal workers are often exposed to hazardous conditions, including harmful contaminants, sharp objects, and wet or waterlogged environments. This standard specifies footwear made from non-leather materials such as polymers, rubber, and elastomers, which are more suitable for the demanding conditions of scavenging work compared to leather.

The standard categorizes footwear into three types: **shoes, ankle boots, and gum boots**, each designed for different work environments. Footwear for municipal scavenging work must meet high durability and safety standards, features such as **protective toe caps** specified in the standard withstand impacts and compressive forces. The standard mentions that the soles and heels of the footwear must be made from materials that **resist abrasion and flexing**, ensuring they remain functional over extended use. Various tests are mentioned in the standard, including **leak-proof tests and resistance to wear, flexing, and aging** to ensure that the footwear remains reliable and safe under harsh conditions.

**Environmental safety** is also emphasized. The standard prohibits the use of certain hazardous chemicals, such as carcinogenic dyes and phthalates, to ensure the footwear is safe for long-term use. Additionally, footwear made from PVC must avoid black colouring to prevent the use of potentially harmful recycled materials. Each pair of footwear must be marked with details such as size, manufacturer, and the relevant standard number, which helps the consumer identify the right product.

**The DPIIT Quality Control Order** mandates that all Footwear for men and women for municipal scavenging work—sold, manufactured, or imported in India **shall comply with IS 16994 and display the BIS Standard Mark**. This ensures that Indian consumers receive high-quality and safe boots.

In summary, IS 16994:2018 ensures that municipal workers are equipped with footwear that provides the **necessary protection, durability, and comfort for their demanding work environments**. The next time you buy Footwear for Municipal scavenging work, look for the BIS mark to ensure they meet these standards, giving you peace of mind and enhancing your performance.