

Therapeutic footwear

Pair of shoes or sandals with a removable insole that adds extra depth and cushioning, or footwear that allows the use of custom-made insoles. They usually have adjustable closures to ensure a snug-fitting upper to hold the foot in place on the insole preventing restriction and shear forces on the skin; wide and deep toe boxes; a wide heel base; a cuff around the ankle with rolled seams to prevent friction; built-in forefoot rocker; rocker bottom soles; and adjustable straps or shoelaces.

- **Product Classification**

- APL (WHO Assistive Product Priority List): 39 (Therapeutic footwear; diabetic, neuropathic, orthopedic)
- ISO 9999:2022: 090342 (Shoes and boots)

- **Possible configuration variants**

None specified.

- **Possible accessories or optional components**

None specified.

- **Product goals**

Activities or functions the product is mainly intended to support, according to WHO ICF Classification:

- Walking [\[d450\]](#).
- Caring for body parts [\[d520\]](#).

- **Indicated impairments**

Difficulties the product is mainly intended to address, according to the WHO ICF Classification:

- Protective functions of the skin [\[b810\]](#).

- **Contraindicated impairments**

Difficulties for which the product may be inappropriate:

None specified.

- **Indicated environments**

Specific environments in which the product should be used:

None specified.

- **Contraindicated environments**

Environments in which the product may be inappropriate:

None specified.

- **Other indicated factors**

Other factors or situations the product is intended to address:

- Diabetic at-risk feet.
- Neuropathic at-risk feet.
- Foot deformities.
- Ankle deformities.

- **Other contraindicated factors**

Other factors or situations in which the product may be inappropriate:

None specified.

- **Points to be considered in product selection**

None specified.

- **Points to be considered in product fitting**

None specified.

- Points to be considered in product use
None specified.
- Points to be considered in product maintenance / follow-up
None specified.
- Examples of products available on the market
 - Live product search in the EASTIN website <https://www.eastin.eu/en/searches/products/list?iso=090342>

Source

This Fact Sheet was compiled in 2021 by an international team of experts, to provide the initial knowledge base for a project ("An online system to assist the selection of assistive product") supported by the World Health Organization in 2020-2021 within the GATE Initiative (Global collaboration on Assistive Product). Fact Sheets were compiled for each of the 50 types of products included in the WHO APL (Assistive Product Priority List).

The team was composed of Renzo Andrich (Italy, group leader), Natasha Layton (Australia), Stefan von Prondzinski (Italy), Jerry Weisman (USA), Silvana Contepomi (Argentina) and Hasan Minto (Pakistan).

The project led to a prototype online tool called ASPREX (ASsistive PProduct EXplorer). At the end of the project, it was transferred to a WHO collaborating center (the Global Disability Hub in the UK), in view of possible future developments.