

WHITE PAPER

How To Source Underwear From China

Sourcing underwear is six decisions taken in order. Taking them out of order is what costs a sampling cycle. This guide sets out the sequence, the industrial clusters, what a tech pack has to contain and how quality and compliance are handled.

The Six Stages

Stage	What happens
Types And Styles	Agree the construction, block and fit before anything else. Woven or knit, brief or trunk, seamed or seamless - each one goes to a different kind of mill.
Supplier Sourcing	Match the style to the right industrial cluster and to a mill whose audit status fits your buyer requirements.
Quotation	Decide between wholesale stock and OEM or ODM production, then cost the fabric, trims, print method, packing and packaging.
Manage Production	Contract and deposit, then lab dips, fabric swatches, print strike offs, pre production samples, label and packaging samples for approval.
Quality Inspection	Inline inspection during production and a final inspection to AQL before the goods are released, plus a shipment sample to you.
Shipment	Sea freight, air freight or express, with quality inspection, warehouse storage, customs clearance and shipping management handled for you.

Where Underwear Is Made In China

Chinese underwear production is highly regionalised. Placing a style in the wrong cluster wastes a full sampling cycle.

City	Province	Known for
Shantou	Guangdong	Roughly half of China's underwear output comes from Shantou, and the city is best known for womens lingerie.
Zhongshan (Xiaolan)	Guangdong	The largest lower body underwear base in China - boxer briefs, trunks, briefs and panties.
Shenzhen and Dongguan	Guangdong	Large mills. Most of the well known underwear brands are produced here.
Jinjiang	Fujian	Export focused. Most factories hold social certification such as BSCI, WRAP, ICS, OEKO-TEX 100, Sedex and GOTS.
Yiwu	Zhejiang	The seamless underwear base in China, and the market Youlang works out of.
Cangnan (Wenzhou)	Zhejiang	A cluster of seamed underwear factories.
Lianyungang	Jiangsu	Known for special occasion and novelty lingerie.

What A Tech Pack Contains

Element	Why it matters
Size measurement chart	Every measurement point at every size in the run. The most common omission and the most common cause of returns.
Design drawing	A flat sketch showing construction, seams and panels.
Vector artwork	Vector files with Pantone TPX references. A raster image loses detail across a graded pattern.
Woven label	Size, position, artwork and material.
Washing and care label	Wording, symbols and market specific text.
Packaging	Box, card, hook, polybag, sleeve and barcode placement.
Accessories and trims	Elastic, lace, hardware, bows and drawcords.

If you cannot produce a tech pack, the design team can develop one with you as an ODM project. The output is the same document and it is handed over to you.

Wholesale Stock Or Custom Production

	Wholesale stock	OEM and ODM
Minimum	12 pcs per design	300 pcs per style per colour
Lead time	Ships from stock	Around 50 to 60 days after approvals
Branding	Your own tag, small extra fee	Full private label
Specification	As produced	Fabric, colour, waistband, print, size spec, packaging
Best for	Testing demand	Building a repeatable product

Quality And Compliance

Inline inspection runs during production so mistakes and delays are removed while they are still fixable. Final inspection follows the AQL standard and covers fabric weight, fabric colours, print, sizes, labels and packaging. A shipment sample is sent so the finished goods can be checked directly. Underwear and lingerie are subject to substance regulations in the United States and the European Union, so REACH (European Union) and FHSA (United States) testing is routed through SGS, BV, TUV where the buyer requires it.

Standard material test items: Fabric weight, Fabric composition, Colour fastness, Light fastness, Saliva colour fastness.

All figures in this document reflect how Youlang and its partner factories work at the time of publication. Size charts are reference points and are expected to be revised to your own measurement specification. Certificates are held by the partner factory producing your order and current copies are supplied on request.