



## Tactical GORE-TEX® Footwear: The results of your large-scale wear tests

In the February issue of the official journal of the GdP, a trade union of police employees in Germany, Gore called for 100 police officers to volunteer to participate in a large-scale Tactical GORE-TEX® Footwear trial. Overwhelmed by 2,367 applications, Gore decided to set up two tests rather than the one test that it had originally planned. Between March and June 2014 two groups of 100 police officers tested GORE-TEX® Black Eagle Tactical 20 Mid and Low boots by HAIX® and then shared their experiences with a test institute.

Gore's main aim was to find out how well Tactical GORE-TEX® shoes and boots met the everyday needs of the modern police officer. On foot patrol duty and in their cars. When standing, running and jumping. Outdoors and indoors. In rain and in dry, warm, summer weather.

**What was the weather like in Germany between March and June 2014? Unpredictable: a mixture of wet, cold, dry, warm and hot weather.** In actual fact, for the duration of the trial the weather was fairly typical for the time of year. In other words, challenging weather conditions for duty gear. There was a lot of rain. For example in May in Leipzig 118 litres of rain fell per square meter, 251% of the long-term average! Temperatures went down to -4°C in March in Cologne and were as high as 34°C in June in Munich and Berlin (wetteronline.de).

Contrary to popular perception, rainfall is relatively high in the spring and summer in Germany. In fact, on average the highest rainfall is recorded in June or July: 85 litres per square meter. One could say that the weather conditions were ideal for testing durably waterproof and breathable GORE-TEX® boots for professionals!

**Test shoes and boots:  
GORE-TEX® Black Eagle Tactical 20 Mid  
and Low by HAIX®**

**This is what some of the participants had to say about waterproofness:**

*"Wet grass, puddles, heavy rain, mud. Cleaning the boots afterwards with lots of water was no problem at all and they could be worn again in next to no time."*

*"... Actually, waterproofness is critical in all kinds of situations. It's horrible having wet feet and that really affects your performance. But that wasn't a problem with these test boots..."*

The data was collected and analysed anonymously by HYVE, a Munich-based innovation and market research agency. We would like to express **our thanks and appreciation** to HYVE, our footwear partner HAIX® and, last but not least, **our enthusiastic volunteers for their hard work and support!**



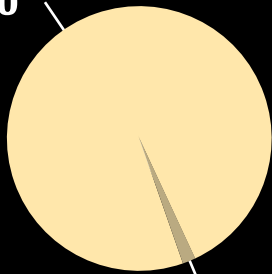
**“ Waterproofness: I was very impressed by the performance of the test shoes. Particularly in challenging weather conditions they keep your feet comfortably warm. The waterproofness is very impressive. These shoes have a good grip, are extremely lightweight and to top it all they have the look of a sports shoe. All good reasons to recommend these shoes.**

**“ Waterproofness: A critical feature during operations involving exposure to unknown liquids - often found around stations - and in wet weather.**



The test was conducted and the data analysed by HYVE, a Munich-based innovation and market research agency.

**Waterproof  
98%**



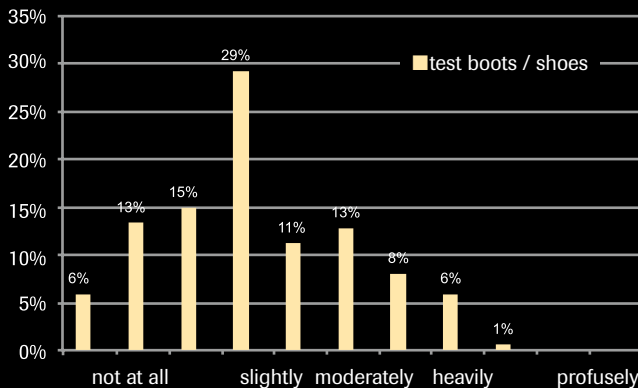
**2%  
not waterproof**

### Waterproofness

Question 16: Were the test boots/shoes waterproof? N = 191

*„...I was also involved in an operation mounted to search a rural area with streams running through it and didn't get wet feet - AMAZING!“*

The size of the words shown here indicates how often the trial participants used these words to describe the functional features of the test boots/shoes.



### Sweating

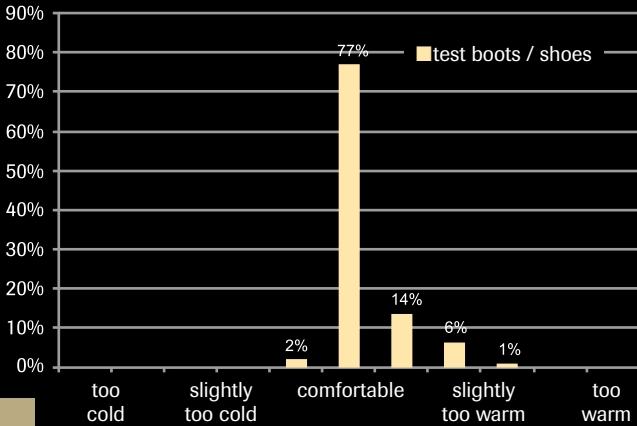
Question 11: How much did you sweat when you were wearing the test boots/shoes? N = 191

*"I feel great - working a night shift at the moment, temperature inside the office at 1.15am is 29°C. My feet feel warm, however my socks (trekking socks) are totally dry."*

**Weight:** Just the right mix of heavy daily duty boot and lightweight running shoe.

**Functionality/Sports Shoe** The perfect shoe for police officers in everyday use. ... It's also a great shoe for when we have to break into a sprint!

**Comfortable feel:** These shoes ensure your feet feel pleasantly comfortable.



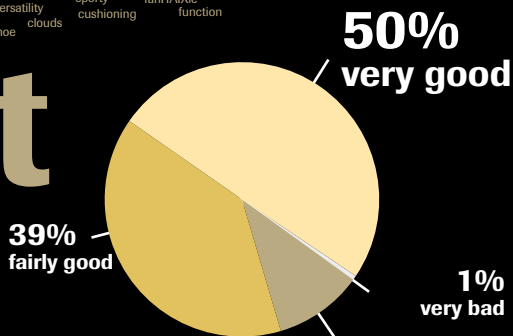
### Temperature

Question 12: How would you describe the temperature inside the test boots/shoes? N = 191

*"On warmer days they keep your feet comfortably cool - they don't stop you sweating completely but you certainly sweat less than in other daily duty boots without GORE-TEX"*

**ble**  
**functional**  
**dynamic**  
**all-round talent**  
**versatile**  
**rt**  
**ght**

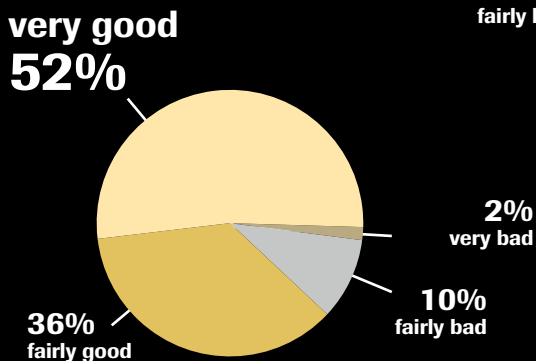
Words in the word cloud include: balanced, light-footed, multifunctional, perfectionist, feel of a sports shoe, all-round talent, dynamic, innovative, grand, barefoot, different, top of the range, wear characteristics, comfort, practical, perfect, comfortable feel, modern, ultra lightweight, fresh, suitable for everyday wear, outstanding, boot, running shoe, slip on, feel-good stability, sole, combination of everything, ease of movement, breathability, wear quality, solid lightness, insole, feel-good shoe, all-rounder, trekking sole, versatility, clouds, shoe, sporty, cushioning, fan, function, H, A, I, X, i, c.



### Comfortable to walk in

Question 14/2: How would you rate the test boots/shoes with respect to the following functional features? Please rate your overall experience of the test boots/shoes. N = 191

*"Unrivalled in terms of wear comfort. When we are wearing our duty suits it is better to wear the boot style with the high-cut upper."*



### Weight

Question 14/1: How would you rate the test boots/shoes with respect to the following functional features? Please rate your overall experience of the test boots/shoes. N = 191

*"An excellent piece of work. These shoes are lightweight, well made and have a comfortable fit - a joy to wear."*

“ My daily duties included all kinds of situations, ranging from firefighting operations to incidents in heavy rain. The shoes withstood the water.

“ The test meant that I would now recommend the boots to others.

“ In colder conditions they keep your feet comfortably warm and in much warmer conditions the temperature is well balanced so you don't even begin to get sweaty feet.

“ The inner lining makes sure that there is a pleasant climate inside the shoes in all weather conditions.

### This is what the GORE-TEX® brand stands for

- durably waterproof:

*“These shoes are entirely suitable for regular duty and everyday wear. Generally speaking, more moisture protection means less breathability. This does not apply to these shoes...”*

- breathable:

*“I'm thrilled with the boots and the breathability. My feet have never felt so comfortable. I have persistently had problems with sweaty feet but in these shoes the problem appears to have been solved. That's why I have been wearing them ever since I took part in the trial.”*

### Outlook

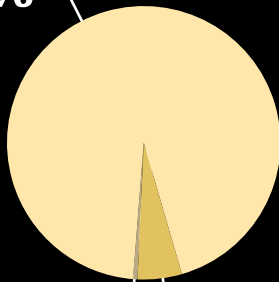
In our large-scale Tactical GORE-TEX® Footwear trial we learnt a great deal about the conditions encountered by police officers in their everyday work and what this means for their footwear. The information collected in the trial will now be channelled into the ongoing development of GORE-TEX® Extended Comfort laminates and the continued development of the GORE-TEX® Black Eagle collection from HAIX®.



Haix web store:  
[www.haix.de](http://www.haix.de)

 **Would recommend**  
**94%**

**1%** would not recommend  
**5%** uncommitted



### Would recommend

*“These shoes look great. The fit is excellent. They are waterproof, breathable and very comfortable to walk in. I would recommend these shoes to everyone.”*

*“I had absolutely no doubts about recommending these shoes to my colleagues. They certainly made an impression on me.”*

To find out more about the trial results visit us at [www.gore-workwear.de](http://www.gore-workwear.de)