

## **Tannery Task Group Meeting #1**

Friday, July 20, 2018

### **Agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. Map out the full tannery process – agree on terms and definitions
3. Different way of tanning
4. Discussion:
  - What are the key issues?
  - Map them against the different organizations

### **Tanning Stages** – anything missing?

suggestion: split into 4 stages

- Final stage is “finishing”
- At the end of crusting/coating, add a dot that says finishing
- Can be done at separate sites, could have 4 different changes of ownership
  - 1<sup>st</sup> two stages are usually done together, although the beamhouse stage can be done and sold to someone else who does the tanning (usually together). Produces wet blue/wet white which is shipped around the world to places that specialize in tanning, etc.
  - In fully-vertical places, they are shipped to different buildings/facilities (even if done by the same company).
  - Most common is 2 stages of ownership

Synthetic Tanning is missing (Change Aldehyde to Synthetic)

Beamhouse stage will be the same regardless of the type of tanning that is used.

Chrome gives blue, synthetic gives white

2<sup>nd</sup> stage of tanning = re-tanning

crust is what you get after re-tanning and after dying; finishing is another step after that

### **Impact**

- 70% of water is used in the beamhouse stage (1<sup>st</sup> stage) – worst impact on environment.
  - Skins are often preserved in salt so they don't go back during transport
  - Salt removal/disposal in water is a major environmental issue in many countries
  - The salted water needs to be treated in a treatment plant
- next highest impact on environment is the tanning stage; there are negative perceptions of chrome tanning, but there is not much different in impact on environment, but that's not necessarily true.
- Synthetic was developed as an alternative to chrome; other advantage to it is have a lesser impact on the environment in other ways.

Key Issues

- Water management
- Sludge disposal

CIBC – Brazilian leather initiative  
WALDP (world apparel and footwear lifecycle database)

Environmental-friendly chemicals > change to “restricted substances”

- Chemical management is a huge issue
- Lots of brands/ZDHC have requirements on restricted substances

comment – working with 2 Italian-based tanneries, using unsalted raw hides from Germany; 20% salted, 80% fresh. Vicenza-based – lots of solutions.

Review and comment by email, then discuss further on the next call.

### **Terminology used**

4 main types of leather (before tanning, not finished leather)

- Slides 7-9 can sit in a part of the website about the “basics”, but are not relevant to how we address things.
  - All impacts are equal to each type

WALDP is working on this area.

<https://quantis-intl.com/tools/databases/waldb-apparel-footwear/>

### **Feedback**

Think about how the RLA tool can reference all of this information about the different impacts/initiatives and how to recognize them.

- The framework we are creating will be dependent upon the work being done in the Task Groups
- What is the minimum criteria that needs to be addressed in order to be “labeled” as Responsible Leather, and what are the nice to haves, recommendations, etc.
  - There may be different ways of recognition, etc. depending on the focus area.