Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT) Meeting
Tuesday, July 31st, 2018
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GoToWebinar Control Panel

- You can use the **Raise hand button** to signal that you have a question, want to make a comment, or require assistance.

- Alternatively, if you have a question, **type it in the Questions Panel** and click Send. We will do our best to answer as timely as possible.

- You can find the **Attendee Registration List** under “**Handouts**” to see who else is on the call (note: not everyone registered will be present).
Meeting Notes

We will send a follow-up email with meeting materials.

Meeting notes, recording and slides will be uploaded to ResponsibleLeather.org.
Agenda

1. Industry news
2. Ireland Meeting
   • Agenda preview
3. Updates: RLA IWG meeting #2
4. Updates: Task Group meetings
   • Land Use Change
   • Tannery
5. Animal Welfare framework
Industry News

• Accountability Framework announces the first release of Framework drafts
• Drive Sustainability report released
• Member updates!
General

The Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT) is a forum for stakeholders in the leather industry to advance responsibility and continuous improvement in the global leather value chain through leadership, science, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

RLRT members also have the opportunity to participate in the development of the Responsible Leather Assessment tool (RLA) through joining the International Working Group (IWG).

RLRT Goals

The RLRT aims to be:
- A platform for stakeholders in the leather industry to engage with each other, share information, and identify common challenges and opportunities.
- A structure for interacting with other organizations and government bodies.
- A forum to agree on priority issues and take action to advance our mission and vision.

RLRT Membership

Participation in the RLRT is voluntary and open to all stakeholders and interested parties across the leather value chain. Applicants may apply to Textile Exchange for membership in the RLRT, subject to agreement with the terms of this Charter.

Participation

The RLRT strives to include representation from all major sectors and subsectors of the leather industry, including, but not limited to:
- **Brands and Retailers:** Companies and associations who bring leather products to consumers.
  - Fashion: Footwear, Apparel, Accessories
  - Furnishings: Home, Retail
  - Transport: Automotive, etc.
- **Supply Chain:** Companies and associations who convert and supply materials for further processing or sale of leather goods.
  - Tier 1: Manufacturing of finished products
  - Tier 2: Leather Manufacturing (tanning)
  - Tier 3: Meatpackers/packing plants and hide processing plants
  - Input Suppliers (chemicals, machinery, traders, financial)
- **Producers:** Farmers, organizations and associations who are actively engaged in the ownership and management of live cattle.
  - Farmers or Ranchers
  - Feedlot owners

RLRT Charter

- Must sign to participate in all work under the RLRT including RLA IWG and Task Groups
- Page 4 refers to the RLA IWG
- RLRT Charter is attached as a “Hand Out” in GoToWebinar
Event in Ireland
- Thursday Oct 11 – Friday Oct 12
- Registration is open!

Register Now!

http://www.eiseverywhere.com/rlrt-globalforum
Global Forum on
Responsible Leather
Agenda Preview
RLA IWG Meeting #2
IWG Meeting Key Outcomes

- Continued working through the Terms of Reference.

- The group agreed there should be a narrow focus at the farm level when it comes to environmental impacts – focus will be on Land Use Change, and build up from there.

- Social Issues are ‘essential’ to address at the tanneries, possibly at slaughter, too.
Next RLA IWG Meeting

Tuesday, August 14th | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST / 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM CET

Registration: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7318842366598657025

Tuesday, August 14
Tuesday, September 11
Land Use Change Task Group
**Evolution of the Tool**
*(example only!)*

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**Data**

[Responsible Leather Round Table](https://www.responsible-leather.org)
Land Use Change – What do we need to determine?

Do we address all aspects of land use change?
- Conversion of all natural ecosystems?
- Deforestation only?
- Zero conversion, zero deforestation or zero ‘illegal’ deforestation?

Proposed scope: Deforestation as core, recognize or recommend the broader scope.
* Need to get further input
Land Use Change – What do we need to determine?

Which impacts do we focus on?
- Deforestation prevention?
- Biodiversity impacts?
- Social impacts?

Proposed scope(s):
- **Biome preservation** (biodiversity, climate impacts)
- Social: forced labour, land tenure, indigenous rights - *look at how this is being addressed by AFI (eg: Minister of Labour in Brazil has black list on forced labour) – look at recognizing a broader set of issues, but setting hard requirements on critical issues such as forced labour and indigenous rights
Land Use Change

Which framework(s) to use: definitions, targets

Proposed definitions and targets:

Our suggestion is to follow the definitions and targets set out in the Accountability Framework: https://accountability-framework.org/framework/contents/#core

Please review the definitions and send any comments or feedback to us.

Are there other aspects of the framework that we should consider adopting for leather?

Which other targets should we map to?

Proposed additional targets:
SDG 15
Who do we work (and align) with?

Brazilian Roundtable on Sustainable Livestock (GTPS)
Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef - GRSB
Accountability Framework Initiative
Carbon Disclosure Project
Canopy
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)
Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN)
Ceres
New York Declaration on Forests
FSC
UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Rabobank?
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Collaboration for Forests and Agriculture (CFA)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Native Energy
Quantis
Science Based Targets (SBT)
Paris Agreement (COP 21)
UN: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
FAO: group focusing on biodiversity
EMPRAPA: research on cattle ranching impacts
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Tannery Task Group
Tannerie stages

Preparatory or Beamhouses stages
- Preservation
- Soaking, Liming
- Un-hairing, Fleshing
- Splitting, Re-liming
- Batting, Degreasing
- Bleaching
- Pickling

Tanning
- Vegetable tanning
  - Mineral tanning
  - Synthetic tanning
  - Oil tanning
  - Combination tanning

Selecting
- Wetting,
- Sammying
- Shaving
- Neutralization
- Re-tanning,
- Dying
- Trimming

Crusting
- Padding
- Spraying
- Roller coating
- Staking
- Embossing

Finishing

Vegetable tanning
Mineral tanning
Synthetic tanning
Oil tanning
Combination tanning
Pickling
Selecting
Wetting,
Sammying
Shaving
Neutralization
Re-tanning,
Dying
Trimming
Padding
Spraying
Roller coating
Staking
Embossing
How a leather product is made

1. Raw Material
   - Sheep
   - Goat
   - Bovine
   - Sheep

2. Beamhouse
   - Soaking & liming
     - Cleaning from salt, blood, and dirt
     - Removing epidermis and hair
   - Fleshing
     - Removing unwanted materials
   - Splitting
     - Into grain skin and split skin; splitting at this stage mostly done for shoes and leather goods

3. Tanning
   - Tanning
     - Converting the hides into a stable material
   - Sammerning
     - Reducing water content by approx. 50%
Key issues

- Traceability of raw materials
- Water management
- Atmospheric admissions
- Restricted substances
- Residue management
- Energy use
- Recycling
- Social

Subtopics:
- Health
- Safety
- Working conditions
- Professional development
- Child labor/forced labor/slave labor

Environmental issues:
- Water management
- Recycling
- Waste water management
- Waste disposal
- Hair recovery

Health and safety issues:
- Use of biodegradable and NPE-free surfactants
- Salt management in preparatory phase
- Chromium management recovery
Animal Welfare Framework
# Upcoming Meeting Schedule

All meetings are from 10-11:30 AM EST / 4-5:30 PM CET

## AUGUST

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| Wed. Aug 1 | RLRT-GRSB Agenda  
Task Group Meeting #3 (Final)                                      |
| Tues. Aug 7 | Animal Welfare  
Task Group Meeting #3                                                 |
| Fri. Aug 10 | Land Use Change  
Task Group Meeting #3                                                  |
| Tues. Aug 14 | RLA IWG  
Meeting #3                                                           |
| Tues. Aug 28 | RLRT August Update Meeting                                          |

## SEPTEMBER

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| Tues. Sept 4 | Tannery  
Task Group Meeting #2                                               |
| Tues. Sept 11 | RLA IWG  
Meeting #4                                                         |
| Mon. Sept 24 | Traceability  
Task Group Meeting #1                                                |
| Tues. Sept 28 | RLRT September Update Meeting                                       |

## OCTOBER

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<td>Thurs-Fri Oct 11-12</td>
<td>Global Forum on Responsible Leather (Kilkenny, Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Oct 23</td>
<td>RLRT Into &amp; Update Meeting (Milan, Italy)</td>
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Thank you!

Email us at ResponsibleLeather@TextileExchange.org

Or visit ResponsibleLeather.org for more information