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Leather — Vocabulary

Cuir — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

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ISO 15115 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 120, *Leather*.

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Leather — Vocabulary

Scope

This International Standard defines terms used in the leather industry.

Vocabulary

The terms are listed alphabetically in English with definitions. Terms used only in North America are identified by “CA US” following the term.

NOTE Some foreign terms which are universally used in the industry are listed in Annexes A and B.

1

abrasion resistance

reciprocal of the loss in thickness of leather after a definite amount of abrasive action on the leather

NOTE This is an important property of sole leather.

2

acid bate

bate that can be used in the pH range of 3 to 5; active even at 20 °C

NOTE Acid bate smoothes the grain. It is less drastic than alkaline bate and can also be used on chromed stock, after an acid wash, to remove the free chrome in the leather.

3

acid-salt ratio

ratio of acid to salt which controls the temper of tanning in vegetable tannage

NOTE Acid brings about fixation of vegetable tannins and salt suppresses the swelling caused by the acid.

4

acid soaking

soaking with the addition of acid to accelerate the process in respect of hides and skins cured by drying

5

acrylic syntan

essentially a polymer of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid with a small amount of an agent like sodium alginate incorporated into the polymer

6

activated sludge process

biological wastewater treatment process in which a mixture of wastewater and activated sludge is agitated and aerated; the activated sludge is subsequently separated from the treated wastewater by sedimentation or returned to the process as need be

7

airless spray

spraying with hydraulic pressure instead of compressed air

8

albumin

kind of simple corpuscular protein containing sulfur, coagulable by heat and soluble in water

EXAMPLE Egg albumin is also known as egg white.

9

aldehyde leather

washable leather, which in its natural state is white, prepared usually from sheep or lamb skin splits or degrains and tanned with formaldehyde

NOTE In France, this leather is also produced from other types of raw material (e.g. cattle hides).

10

alder

tannin-bearing tree grown in Balkan countries and Turkey

NOTE 1 Tannins occur in alder barks and fruit to the extent of 9 % to 16 %.

NOTE 2 The Latin name is *Alnus glutinosa*.

11

algarobilla

tannin-bearing tree grown in Central America and the West Indies

NOTE 1 Fruits/pods of this tree contain hydrolysable (gallo) tannins to the extent of 45 % to 50 %.

NOTE 2 The Latin name is *Caesalpinia brevifolia*.

12

alkaline bating

bating with either pancreatic or microbial enzymes, which are active in the alkaline range, usually pH 8 to 8,5

13

alligator

leather made from the skins of all aquatic species with a grain similar to the American alligator

14

alligator-grained leather

leather of various types, such as calf, sheep or cattle hide embossed to resemble the grain of alligator hide

15**alum-dressed leather**
alum-tanned leather

leather prepared solely with a mixture of which the essential active ingredient is an aluminium salt, often, but not necessarily, alum-egg yolk and flour

NOTE The natural colour of the leather is white.

cf. **alum tawing** (18)

16**alum retan**

leather made by retanning with an aluminium tanning agent

cf. **chrome retan** (144)

17**aluminium tanning**

tanning with basic aluminium sulfate stabilized with a masking agent like citrate and basifying to pH 4,2 which completes the tanning

18**alum tawing**

preparing leather using a mixture as described under alum-tanned leathers

19**ammunition leather**

vegetable-, chrome- and combination-tanned leather, curried and finished for making military boots

cf. **army grain** (33), **russet leather** (633)

20**amphoteric syntan**

synthetic organic tanning agent possessing both basic and acid

NOTE The products are produced from aliphatic amines condensed with novolacks using Mannich reaction in organic solvents or through condensation of polyhydroxyphenols with aldehydes and bases or by other methods. These are soluble in water even though there are no sulfonic groups and are amphoteric in character.

21**angle of weave**

general orientation of the hide fibres with the grain layer, making an angle that varies from the vertical to the horizontal weave

22**angular spray**

spraying of finishes at different angles to produce a two-tone effect; also known as Shadow spray

23

aniline dyed

leather that has been through-dyed by immersion in a dye bath and has not received any coating of pigmented finish

cf. **semi-aniline finished** (669)

NOTE In Germany, the term is also applied to leather, which has been surface aniline dyed only by spraying or other means.

24

aniline dyes

dyes synthesized from different chemicals and/or coal-tar products

NOTE These dyes are also known as synthetic dyes.

25

aniline finished

natural or dyed leather finished by application of transparent surface coating, clear or coloured with dye

26

aniline stained

leather that has been stained by brushing, padding or spraying and has not received any coating of pigmented finish

NOTE In Germany, there is no differentiation between “dyeing” and “staining”.

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27

antelope

fine, soft leather with a velvety, lustrous nap, made from antelope or gazelle skin sueded on the flesh side or sometimes, in the case of antelope, frized on the grain side

NOTE 1 In the shoe and handbag trades, antelope is sometimes used to describe a suede-dyed-finished Russian reindeer sueded on the frized grain side.

NOTE 2 In Germany, the term is often applied incorrectly to suede leather. In Holland, the term is applied to similar leather made from goat or sheep skin. In Italy, this term is applied incorrectly to a chamois-dressed skin having the properties mentioned above.

28

antique effect

antique look

leather with an old and worn-out look

NOTE 1 The word “antique” literally means old.

NOTE 2 The antique effect is in the general category of “contrast colours”.

29

antique grain

surface pattern of markings or creases, usually irregular, in which the hollows or valleys are given a contrasting colour to produce a two-tone or two-colour effect

NOTE The creases are produced by embossing, boarding or other similar means.

30**apparent density of leather**

mass per unit overall volume of the leathers

NOTE The overall volume ignores the volume of the pores in the leather and is calculated from the outer dimensions only.

31**apron leathers**

any one of several varieties of leather used in connection with textile machinery and blacksmith aprons

NOTE Comber and Gill Box apron leather is a soft, mellow, tough leather, tanned from steer hides, heavily stuffed and boarded or otherwise softened, while Rub Roll apron leather is a flexible but firm, dry, strong leather.

32**aqueous finishes**

finishes dispersed in water medium

33**army grain**

embossed grained leather used for military leather goods

cf. **ammunition leather** (19), **russet leather** (633)

34**avaram**

tannin-bearing tree grown in South India, which produces a condensed type of tannin

NOTE 1 The bark of this tree contains 12 % to 17 % tannins; largely used in East India tannage of hides and skins.

NOTE 2 The Latin name is *Cassia auriculata*.

35**babul**

tannin-bearing tree which grows in India, the Arabian peninsula, Sudan, Nigeria and many other West African countries

NOTE 1 Babul barks contain 12 % tannins and pods contain 18 % to 20 % condensed tannins.

NOTE 2 The Latin name is *Acacia arabica*.

36**baby calf**

calf skin leather made from small, lightweight skins with a smooth or finely boarded grain surface, free from any artificial surface pattern

NOTE The finish is more or less glossy and is produced by glazing, ironing or plating.

37**back**

⟨raw⟩ main portion of the hide, obtained by cutting off the two bellies

See Figure C.1 a).

NOTE In North America, a back is a half cattle hide (or side) after the removal of the head and belly (see Figure C.1 b).

cf. **halfback** (349)

38

back

⟨leather⟩ leather made from the **back** (37)

39

bag hide

flexible leather generally embossed with a grain pattern, goat grain being the most usual; made from cattle hide, usually vegetable-tanned, split to a suitable thickness and sometimes hand or machine boarded

NOTE In Holland and Spain, this leather may also be semi-chrome tanned.

40

bag leather

leather used in travelling bags and suitcases

NOTE It does not include the light leathers employed for women's fancy handbags. The staple material for bag and case leather at present is leather made from the hides of animals of the bovine species, but heavy seal skins and goat skins are also used.

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bag tanning

vegetable tanning of unhaired and fleshed hides and skins after stitching them in the form of bags, filled with a slurry of vegetable tanning material in a vegetable tannin liquor

NOTE This was one of the early methods for carrying out tannage and was mainly used for Morocco leather production.

42

bark-tanned leather

leather vegetable-tanned mainly by means of the tannins contained in the barks of trees, the hides and skins in process coming in contact with the raw bark

NOTE However, modern tanning would usually employ tanning "extracts" from bark.

43

barkometer

hydrometer used for determining the specific gravity of tannin solutions

NOTE A specific gravity of 1 000 is equivalent to 0 degrees barkometer (°BK) and each additional degree BK is equivalent to an increase of 0,001 in specific gravity.

44

baseball leather

leather used for covers of baseballs

NOTE The better grades of balls have covers of alum-tanned horse hide. Some cheaper grades are made of kip and sheep skins.

45**basic dyes**

coloured compounds which on dissolution form coloured cations (positively charged ions)

EXAMPLE Triphenyl methane dyes.

46**basicity****percentage basicity****Freiberg basicity****Lehigh basicity****Schorlemmer's basicity**

number of hydroxyl groups borne by a chromium unit as a percentage fraction of the same present in chromic hydroxide

47**basification**

treating the mineral-tanned stock with a mild alkali-like sodium bicarbonate with a view to form large aggregate of metallic compounds by

- putting in additional OH groups onto the metal complex so that linear polymerization of the metal complex takes place through olation, and
- forming additional ionized carboxyls groups needed to complex with the tanning metal

48**basil**

unsplit pelt, usually of a woolled sheep skin, vegetable-tanned

NOTE In Germany, the term is not only applied to rough tanned sheep leather, but is also used as a description of origin in the case of the woolled sheep skin. In the U.K., this leather is sometimes called "full sheep".

49**bastard**

skin from a cross breed of goat and sheep which has hair instead of wool

50**bate**

enzymes mixed with an inert carrier and with or without a deliming agent; used to remove unwanted constituents of hides and skins in order to make the grain smooth and the leather softer

51**batik effect**

dye designs made by dyes diffusing through the cracks on a fabric coated with a sizing material (i.e. materials which can be removed later on by washing starch or wax)

NOTE Cracking can be brought about in a variety of ways such as staking, dry milling, embossing, etc.

52**bating**

removal of unwanted interfibrillary proteins, by treating the limed hides and skins with enzymes, to obtain soft and pliable hide or skin with a silky and smooth grain surface

53

Baume scale

calibration scale (for liquids, especially acids) that is reducible to specific gravity by the following formulae

— for liquids heavier than water, specific gravity = $145/(145 - n)$ at 15 °C (60 °F);

— for liquids lighter than water, specific gravity = $140/(130 + n)$ at 15 °C (60 °F)

where n is the reading on the Baume scale abbreviated as °Be

NOTE 1 °Be = 6,9 °BK.

54

beam

convex wooden slab sloping downward from about waist height over which a hide is placed for unhairing, trimming off excess flesh and ragged edges and for scudding by hand knife

55

beam house

first department of tannery in which raw stock is soaked, limed, unhaired, fleshed, bated and in short subjected to all sorts of purification and conditioning processes preparatory to tanning

NOTE The name is derived from the wooden beams over which the hides and skins were placed for these operations in earlier traditional tanning practices.

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beam house operations

soaking, liming, unhairing, fleshing, deliming, scudding, ~~bating and~~ pickling

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beaver lamb

sheep or lamb skin with short fine wool, which has been dressed with the wool on, dyed and finished by a process giving a weather-resistant straightness and brightness to the wool lustered by ironing with formaldehyde on a rotary iron

cf. **shearling** (685)

58

bellows hide

curried, flexible and air-proof leather made from split hide

59

bellows leather

leather which is either lightproof or airproof for fire, organ camera bellows, etc.

NOTE Some countries distinguish between lightproof and airproof types; others have the same term.

60

belly

(raw) that part of the hide covering the underside and the upper part of the legs of the animal

See Figure C.3.

61**belly**

⟨leather⟩ leather made from the **belly** (60)

62**belly grain**

tanned outer (hair or grain) layer split from a belly

63**belly middle**

middle part of a cattle hide belly

64**belt leather**

leather used for waist belts

65**belting butt**

butt portion of selected cattle hide that has been specially tanned, curried and dressed to produce strong, flexible leather with minimum stretch, suitable for the manufacture of transmission belting

66**belting lace**

chrome-tanned back, about 2,5 mm thick, heavily dressed with natural grease, suitable for cutting into strips for the purpose of joining transmission belting

NOTE The oil-treated back is generally known as “Helvetia leather”.

67**belting leather**

leather for machine belting generally made from butt portion of high grade cattle hides

68**bend**

half of cattle hide butt, obtained by dividing it along the line of the backbone

See Figure C.7.

69**biff**, verb

to beat a salted hide that has been placed on a rack, in order to shake loose salt from the hair

70**binder**

film forming material, usually polymeric, used to bind pigment particles and additives for coating the surface of the leather