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**Leather — Chemical determination  
of chromium(VI) content in leather  
— Thermal pre-ageing of leather  
and determination of hexavalent  
chromium**

*Cuir — Détermination chimique de la teneur en chrome(VI) du cuir  
— Vieillissement thermique du cuir et détermination de la teneur en  
chrome hexavalent*

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## Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the Chemical Test Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUC Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 309, *Footwear*, the secretariat of which is held by AENOR, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

## Introduction

More than 80 % of leather is tanned using chromium(III) salts. The industry recommends manufacturing procedures to avoid oxidative conditions that could allow the formation of traces of hexavalent chromium [chromium(VI)] in the leather.

It is difficult to reproduce the natural ageing process. Therefore, in order to predict the tendency for trace levels of hexavalent chromium to develop in chromium(III) tanned leather, a number of pre-ageing tests have been proposed, some of which are being used in commercial leather specifications.

Following an inter-laboratory trial (see [Annex A](#)), thermal pre-ageing was selected as a suitable pre-ageing test procedure. The method is presented in this document.

Information on the development of hexavalent chromium during the natural ageing of chromium(III) tanned leather is given in [Annex B](#).

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