



LEATHER WORKING GROUP

List of Definitions

Core Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Leather	CEN	<p>hide or skin exclusively of animal origin, with its original fibrous structure more or less intact, tanned to be imputrescible, where the hair or wool may or may not have been removed, whether or not the hide or skin has been split into layers or segmented either before or after tanning and where any surface coating or surface layer, however applied, is not thicker than 0,15 mm.</p> <p><i>Note 1: If the tanned hide or skin is disintegrated mechanically and/or chemically into fibrous particles, small pieces or powders and then, with or without the combination of a binding agent, is made into sheets or other forms, such sheets or forms are not leather.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: If the grain layer has been completely removed, the term leather is not to be used without further qualification, e.g. split leather, suede leather.</i></p>
Split Leather	LWG	<p><material> layer from a hide or skin made from a flesh split or a middle split tanned to be imputrescible.</p> <p><i>Note 1: a split is a layer of hide or skin obtained by dividing it horizontally (splitting) to obtain at least two separate layers; the top layer is called grain split and the bottom layer is called flesh split; for heavy hides a middle split can also be obtained</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: if the name of the animal whence it originates, or the part of the animal whence it comes, is included in the description, the term "split leather" will be used as a noun, e.g. pig split leather</i></p>
Grain split	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<p><material> upper or top layer of a hide or skin with grain surface, separated from the hide or skin by splitting horizontally in a machine.</p>

Core Terms		
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Flesh split	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> inner of under layer of a hide or skin with grain surface, separated from the hide or skin by splitting horizontally in a machine.
Middle split	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> middle layer of a hide or skin with grain surface, separated from the hide or skin by splitting horizontally in a machine.
Crust	CEN	leather which is tanned, fat liquored and dried, before finishing.
Dyed crust	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	leather tanned, dyed, fat liquored and dried, before finishing
Pearl crust leather	UNECE	<material> undyed leather that has been tanned, retanned, fat liquored and dried, before finishing.
Pelt	ISO (aligned with UNECE definitions)	<material> hide or skin prepared for tanning by removal of the hair or the wool, epidermis and flesh. <i>Note 1: the term pelt can also be used for the skin of an animal with fur or hair still on it</i>
Pickled pelt	CEN	pelt treated with acid and brine, to be preserved or to be prepared for tanning. <i>Note 1: The term pelt can also be used for the skin of an animal with fur or hair still on it</i>
Wet-blue	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather in a wet condition after chrome tanning. <i>Note 1: Wet-blue is an intermediate stage of manufacturing</i>
Wet-white	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather in a wet condition after tanning with substances, e.g. zirconium salts, aluminium salts, modified aldehydes, glutaraldehydes and syntans, that confer a whitish colour. <i>Note 1: Wet-white is an intermediate stage of manufacturing</i>
Finished leather	LWG	<material> leather that has been processed to a stage where it is suitable for use in the making of products.

Qualifying Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Grain	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> outer side of the leather once the hair or wool and epidermis have been removed, characterised by follicles from hair or wool, feather follicles or scales, specific to each animal species.
Full grain	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather having kept its entire grain, with none of the surface removed by any corrective mechanical treatment.
Corrected grain	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather in which the grain has been partially removed by buffing or any similar mechanical treatment and enhanced by a finishing treatment.
Shrunken grain leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather specifically tanned so as to shrink the grain layer, with a grain surface of prominent but uneven folds and valleys.

Tannage Related Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Chrome-tanned leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> hide or skin converted to leather either by treatment solely with chromium salts or with chromium salts together with a small amount of some other tanning agent, used merely to assist the chromium tanning process, and not in sufficient amount to alter the essential chromium tanned character of the leather.
Semi-chrome leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather that has been tanned first with vegetable tanning and then retanned with chromium salts.
Chrome-free leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> hide or skin converted to leather by a tanning agent free of chromium salts, where the total content of chromium in the tanned leather is less than or equal to 0.1% (mass of chromium/total dry weight of leather).
Metal-free-tanned leather	CEN	hide or skin converted to leather, where the total content of all tanning metals (Cr, Al, Ti, Zr, Fe) in the leather is less than or equal to 0,1 % (mass of all metals/total dry weight of leather). <i>Note 1: Metals contained in the finishes are not considered.</i>

Tannage Related Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Organic-tanned leather	CEN	hide or skin converted to leather by natural or synthetic organic tanning agents, where the total content of tanning metals (Cr, Al, Ti, Zr, Fe) is less than or equal to 0,3 % (mass of all metals/total dry weight of leather). <i>Note 1: Metals contained in the finishes are not considered.</i>
Vegetable-tanned leather	CEN	hide or skin converted to leather by vegetable tanning agents, where the total content of tanning metals (Cr, Al, Ti, Zr, Fe) is less than or equal to 0,3 % (mass of all metals/total dry weight of leather). <i>Note 1: Metals contained in the finishes are not considered.</i>

Finishing Related Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Aniline leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather whose natural grain is clearly visible either without a surface coating or with a non-pigmented surface coating. <i>Note 1: The thickness of non-pigmented surface coating is usually less than or equal to 0.01 mm</i>
Semi-aniline leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather that has been coated with a finish containing a small amount of pigment, so that the natural grain is clearly visible.
Pigmented leather and pigmented split leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather whose natural grain or surface is completely concealed with a finish containing pigments. <i>Note 1: the term pigmented split leather also exists</i>
Coated leather and coated split leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather and split leather where the surface coating, applied to the outer side, does not exceed one third of the total thickness of the product but is in excess of 0.15 mm.

Finishing Related Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Patent leather and patent split leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<p><material> leather with generally a mirror-like effect, obtained by application of a layer of pigmented or non-pigmented varnishes, or synthetic resins, whose thickness does not exceed one third of the total thickness of the product.</p> <p><i>Note 1: the term patent split leather also exists</i> <i>Note 2: varnishes and lacquers are usually based on linseed oil, nitrocellulose, polyurethane and/or other synthetic resins</i></p>
Laminated leather	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<p><material> leather where a foil (polymeric film) layer, not exceeding one third of the total thickness, is applied by a transfer coating process.</p> <p><i>Note 1: other methods of applying a foil are plating, embossing and ironing</i></p>

Specific Leather Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Box calf	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> full chrome tanned calf leather, black or coloured, smooth or boarded, with proteinic finishing.
Cavallino	CEN	specific Italian term for leather, usually derived from calf skins, with trimmed and short hair so that it looks as glossy and silky as the hair of the horse.
Chamois	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather made from the flesh split of sheepskin or lamb skin from which the grain has been removed by frizzing and tanned by processes involving the oxidation of marine oils in the skin, using solely such oils (full-oil chamois) or first an aldehyde and then such oils (combination chamois).
Double face	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> double-sided leather made from lamb or sheep skins or other animals with wool, dressed, tanned, softened and dyed for desired properties.
Nappalan	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<physical characteristic> finishing on the flesh side of hides and skins.
Napa	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> soft full grain leather through dyed and lightly finished.

Specific Leather Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Nap	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> vertical and fine fibres cut short enough to produce a velvety two-tone effect when a two-way stroke is applied by hand.
Nubuck	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> leather snuffed (buffed) to give a velvety effect, where the original grain pattern is still visible.
Shearling	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> tanned and dressed skin of a sheep still bearing the original wool that has been cut to approximately even length.
Suede Velours	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather or split leather whose wearing surface has been mechanically finished to produce a velvet-like nap.
Skiver	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> tanned outer or grain split, typically of a sheepskin or lambskin, but sometimes applied to goatskin or calfskin.
Pull up	ISO (aligned with UNECE & CEN definitions)	<material> leather that, by design, lightens in colour when stretched.

Other Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Hide	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> raw skin of a mature or fully-grown animal of the larger kind, e.g. cattle and buffalo.
Raw Hide	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> hide which has only been treated to preserve it.
Leather fibre board Bonded fibre board Recycled leather fibre	CEN	<p>material having a minimum amount of 50 % in weight of dry leather fibres, where tanned hides or skins are disintegrated mechanically and/or chemically into fibrous particles, small pieces or powders and then, with or without the combination of chemical binding agent, are made into sheets.</p> <p><i>Note 1: If there is any other component apart from leather fibre, binding material and leather auxiliaries, then this is declared as part of the description.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: Where the material has been disintegrated and reformed in some way, the appropriate generic term is "...X leather fibre"- for example, "bonded leather fibre", or "recycled leather fibre." On this basis, the terms "recycled leather" or "recycling leather" are used incorrectly.</i></p>
Side	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> half of a whole hide, obtained by dividing it along the line of the backbone.
Skin	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<material> outer covering of smaller types of animals, e.g. sheep and goats, or of the immature animals of the larger species, e.g. calves.
Substance	ISO (aligned with UNECE definition)	<physical characteristic> thickness of leather.
Transfer coated leather and transfer coated split leather	CEN	leather or split leather where a foil (polymeric film) layer, not exceeding one third of the total thickness, is applied by a transfer coating process on the top surface.
Part-processed	LWG	<p><material> leather that has undergone processing from raw hide but has not been processed to a stage where it is suitable for use in the making of products.</p> <p><i>Note 1: the most common conditions for part processed material are wet blue / wet white and crust.</i></p>

Traceability Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Abattoir / Slaughterhouse	UNECE	<facility> where animals are sent for slaughter at end of life.
Agent / Trader	LWG (similar to UNECE)	A company that buys raw, part processed or finished leather from one company and sells them to another one. The products remain unchanged.
Brand Agent	UNECE	<party> buys and sells finished leather on behalf of brands without any transformation of material.
Establishment	EUDR	Means any premises, structure or, in the case of open-air farming, any environment or place where livestock are kept, on a temporary or permanent basis.
Plot of land	EUDR	Land within a single real-estate property, as recognised by the law of the country of production, which enjoys sufficiently homogeneous conditions to allow an evaluation of the aggregate level of risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with relevant commodities produced on that land.
Geolocation	EUDR	The geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of the relevant commodities other than cattle, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.
Farm	LWG	All places where the birth, raising and/or finishing or full life cycle of an animal takes place.
Industrialised farm system	UNECE	<process> combines the characteristics of a birthing farm, rearing farm and finishing farm (feedlot), and is commonly used for large volume meat production.
Birthing farm	LWG (similar to UNECE)	<facility> where animals are born and stay with their mothers until they are weaned.
Rearing farm (raising farm)	UNECE	<facility> where young animals are sent to continue to grow to a pre-determined age/weight.
Finishing farm	LWG (similar to UNECE)	<facility> where animals spend the last period of life, prior to slaughter, to ensure optimum weight and health for meat production. <i>Note 1: For cattle it is approx. 4 months</i>

Traceability Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Direct Supplier	LWG	<p>A person or business that supplies goods/services directly to a person or business.</p> <p><i>Note 1: A business could be an organisation, manufacturing facility or farm</i></p>
Indirect Supplier	LWG	<p>A person or business that supplies goods/services to another supplier as an intermediary.</p> <p><i>Note 1: A business could be an organisation, manufacturing facility or farm</i></p>
Finished leather Manufacturer	LWG	<p><facility> a place where the process of leather manufacture occurs to the point of producing finished leather.</p> <p><i>Note 1: Finished leather Manufacturers may perform the whole transformation process from raw hide to finished leather or from part processed material to finished leather</i></p>
Finished product manufacturer	UNECE	<p><party> a person or company who transforms finished leather into final products.</p>
Animal origin	LWG	<p>The point or place where the animal was born.</p>
Hide and skin origin	LWG	<p>The point or place where the hide or skin is separated from the carcass.</p>
Subcontractor	UNECE	<p><party> a person or company that signs a contract to perform part or all of the obligations of another's contract (i.e. in the leather sector a subcontractor provides a transformation process on behalf of a tannery without owning the material).</p>
Tannery	LWG	<p><facility> a place where the process of tanning is undertaken.</p> <p><i>Note 1: tanneries may perform the whole transformation process from raw hide to finished leather or may only undertake the tanning process</i></p>

Traceability Terms		
Terms	Source	Definition
Leather Manufacturer	LWG	<p><facility> a place where the process of leather production occurs.</p> <p><i>Note 1: leather manufacturers may perform the whole transformation process from raw hide to finished leather or may perform a part process</i></p>
Commissioning Manufacturer	LWG	<p><party> a person or company that buys raw or part processed material and commission manufacturing work to be carried out by subcontractors, before selling it on as finished leather.</p>
Tanning	ISO (aligned with UNECE terms)	<p><process> treatment of hide or skin with extracts of natural products (e.g. bark, leaves, seeds) or chemical agents (e.g. chromium, aluminium, organic compounds) to stabilize against heat, enzymatic attack and thermo-mechanical stress.</p>
Traceability	ISO	<p><process> "the ability to trace the history, application or location of an object" in a supply chain.</p>
Supply chain	LWG	<p>The chain of businesses that are involved in the creation of a product to a specific point.</p>
Value chain	LWG	<p>The full chain of businesses that are involved in the creation of a product or service – from the animal origin to final product for sale, and including post-consumption businesses.</p>