

BS EN 15987:2015



BSI Standards Publication

Leather — Terminology — Key definitions for the leather trade

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National foreword

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Leather - Terminology - Key definitions for the leather trade

Cuir - Terminologie - Définitions pour le commerce du cuir

Leder - Terminologie - Hauptdefinitionen für den
Lederhandel

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Foreword

This document (EN 15987:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 289 “Leather”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2015, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2015.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 15987:2011.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are listed below:

- addition of the new Clause 3 “Use of the term leather”;
- addition of a new Annex A (Normative) “Exception” in order to cover the German term “Kunstleder”;
- technical and editorial changes in order to better clarify the meaning of some terms (i.e. 4.3.3 “chamois”).

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the key terms and definitions used for the leather trade and provides guidance on the correct use of the term “leather”.

Defined parameters in this standard need to be assessed using standard test methods specific for leather.

NOTE See Bibliography for leather test method standards.

2 Normative references

Not applicable.

3 Use of term leather

The term 'leather', in any language, and those derived from it or synonyms, is reserved exclusively for the product as defined under 4.1.1 and, as appropriate, for qualifying articles or manufactures made thereof. This applies also in cases where the term “leather” is used as an adjective, a noun, or inserted as a prefix or suffix in other words. The term “leather” cannot be used in the denomination of man-made materials except for those specified in this standard and in accordance with their specific rules (Annex A).

The term 'leather' can be qualified with words characterizing the material as specified under 4.1 and 4.2, or, more generally, referring to the animal origin (e.g. calf leather), the country of origin (e.g. Italian leather), the market destination (e.g. footwear leather), the colour (e.g. black leather) or other similar valorising terms provided that they are corresponding to the truth and to the definition under 4.1.1.

4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

4.1 Key terms

4.1.1

leather

hide or skin 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

Note 1 to entry: 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.

Note 2 to entry: 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.

4.1.2

split leather

layer from a hide or skin made from a flesh split or a middle split, without any grain structure, tanned to be imputrescible

Note 1 to entry: 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 also a middle split can be obtained.

Note 2 to entry: 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.

4.1.3

crust

leather which is tanned, fatliquored and dried, before finishing

4.1.3.1

dyed crust

leather tanned, dyed, fatliquored and dried, before finishing

4.1.4

pelt

hide or skin prepared for tanning by removal of the hair or the wool, epidermis and flesh

Note 1 to entry: The term pelt can also be used for the skin of an animal with fur or hair still on it.

4.1.5

pickled pelt

pelt treated with acid and brine, to be preserved or to be prepared for tanning

Note 1 to entry: The term pelt can also be used for the skin of an animal with fur or hair still on it.

4.1.6

wet-blue

leather in a wet condition after chrome tanning

Note 1 to entry: Wet -blue is an intermediate stage of manufacturing.

4.1.7

wet-white

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

Note 1 to entry: Wet- white is an intermediate stage of manufacturing.

4.2 Qualifying terms

4.2.1 Grain related

4.2.1.1

grain

outer side of leather once the hair or wool and epidermis has been removed, which is characterized by one of the following patterns, specific to each animal species:

- pores from hair and wool;
- feather follicles;
- scales

4.2.1.2

full grain

leather having kept its entire grain, with none of the surface removed by any corrective mechanical treatment

4.2.1.3

corrected grain

grain which has been partially removed by buffing or any similar mechanical treatment, and enhanced by a finishing treatment

Note 1 to entry: The original pattern is generally identifiable except for heavily corrected grains.

4.2.2 Tannage related

4.2.2.1

chrome-tanned leather

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

4.2.2.2

chrome-free leather

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)

4.2.2.3

metal-free leather

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)

4.2.2.4

organic-tanned leather

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)

4.2.2.5

vegetable-tanned leather

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)

4.2.3 Finishing related

4.2.3.1

aniline leather

leather whose natural grain (4.2.1.1) is clearly and completely visible and where any surface coating with a non-pigmented finish is less than or equal to 0,01 mm

4.2.3.2

semi-aniline leather

leather that has been coated with a finish containing a small amount of pigment, so that the natural grain (4.2.1.1) is clearly visible

4.2.3.3

pigmented and pigmented split leather

leather or split leather whose natural grain (4.2.1.1) or surface is completely concealed with a finish containing pigments

4.2.3.4

coated and coated split leather

leather or 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

4.2.3.5

patent and patent split leather

leather or split 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

4.3 Specific leather terms

4.3.1

box calf

full chrome tanned calf leather black or coloured, smooth or boarded, with a proteinic finish

4.3.2

cavallino

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

4.3.3

chamois

leather made from the flesh split of sheepskin or lambskin or from sheepskin or lambskin from which the grain has been removed by frizing 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)

Note 1 to entry: Also leather made from the skin of a mountain antelope or chamois, but such leather is rare.

Note 2 to entry: In German language this term is also used to define chamois for clothing made out of deer skins.

4.3.4

double face

wool-on sheepskin, finished by buffing on the reverse side

4.3.5

nappalan

wool-on sheepskin, finished by coating on the reverse side

4.3.6

nappa

soft full grain leather, through dyed and lightly finished

Note 1 to entry: Generally chrome tanned.

4.3.7

nubuck

leather buffed on the grain side to produce a velvety effect, where the grain layer is still visible

4.3.8

suede/velours

leather or split leather whose wearing surface has been mechanically finished to produce a velvet-like nap

4.3.9

skiver

tanned outer or grain split, typically of a sheepskin or lambskin, but sometimes applied to goatskin or calfskin

4.3.10

pull up

leather that by design lightens in colour when stretched

4.4 Others

4.4.1

leather fibre board

bonded leather fibre

recycled leather fibre (and similar terms)

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

Note 1 to entry: If there is any other component apart from leather fibre, binding material and leather auxiliaries, then this is declared as part of the description.

Note 2 to entry: 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.

4.4.2

laminated and laminated split leather

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

Annex A (normative)

Exception

Exceptionally, in the German language the term “Kunstleder” is permitted because of its historical origin and because it is clearly understood by customers and consumers and its use does not lead to misunderstanding.

The term “Kunstleder” shall not be translated in other languages.

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