

BS EN 16223:2012



BSI Standards Publication

# Leather — Requirements for the designation and description of leather in upholstery and automotive interior applications

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### **National foreword**

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee TCI/69, Footwear, leather and coated fabrics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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English Version

## Leather - Requirements for the designation and description of leather in upholstery and automotive interior applications

Cuir - Exigences relatives à la désignation et à la description du cuir pour garniture et applications liées à l'intérieur des automobiles

Leder - Anforderungen an Bezeichnung und Beschreibung von Leder für Polsterungen und die Innenausstattung von Automobilen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 29 September 2012.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 16223:2012) 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2013, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2013.

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## **Introduction**

This European Standard is based on the Code of Practice of the International Council of Tanners (ICT) – Code of Practice on the appropriate designation of leather used in upholstery and automotive applications (Hong Kong, 30 March 2009).

In the absence of national regulations this document provides the furniture and car industries with a standard on which to base their commercial communications to customers and the general public when leather is used in their products.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies requirements for the designations and descriptions that should be used in public or commercial communications, labels or product descriptions when leather is used in upholstered furniture and automotive interior applications.

The designation or description of leather in footwear, leather goods and leather clothing including gloves are not covered by this document.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 15987:2011, *Leather – Terminology – Key definitions for the leather trade*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 15987:2011 and the following apply.

### 3.1

#### **seat or chair**

independent piece of upholstered furniture intended for sitting purposes comprising contact and non contact areas

### 3.2

#### **suite**

combined pieces of upholstered furniture intended for sitting purposes comprising contact and non contact areas

### 3.3

#### **upholstered furniture**

furniture intended for sitting purposes comprising a frame, cushioning material and a covering, excluding loose cushions and free coverings, unless they are an integral part of the furniture

### 3.4

#### **contact area**

area of the seat or upholstered furniture, that comes into contact with the body including the horizontal sitting cover, arm rests and vertical seat back

### 3.5

#### **non-contact area**

area of a seat or upholstered furniture that is not intended for sitting purposes including areas on the outsides and backs of the seat or upholstered furniture

### 3.6

#### **automotive interior**

compartment in an automotive vehicle comprising at least seats, dashboard, panels, and centre console

### 3.7 automotive interior component

individual element of the automotive interior including seats, dashboard, panels, steering wheel, gear knob, headlining and console or any other relevant element of the vehicle interior

## 4 General principles

**4.1** The guiding principle is that the term “Leather” should only be used if the upholstered furniture or automotive interior or interior component (or a relevant part of it) is made of leather or covered with leather, and where the essential nature, appearance and performance of the upholstered furniture or automotive interior or automotive interior component is characterised by being made of leather. The description of the material should not materially mislead the consumer or user.

**4.2** This document gives the general guidelines that should apply in the designation and description of upholstered furniture and automotive seating and interiors when reference is made to leather as a constituent material.

## 5 Requirements

**5.1** Where the term “Leather” is used as a descriptor, at least 80 % of the expected surface area (or volume, as appropriate) of the component being described should be leather.

NOTE In the case of steering wheels, the expected surface area to be considered is limited to the ring.

**5.2** Where the term “Full Leather” is used as a descriptor, all of the expected surface area (or volume, as appropriate) of the component being described should be leather.

**5.3** Where the type of leather is designated – for example “full grain leather” or “nappa leather” the description should be accurate and in line with EN 15987.

**5.4** Where only the “contact areas” are leather then the seat or upholstered furniture shall not be described as “leather” unless the description “leather seat with non leather areas (e.g. outside arms and back)” is used.

**5.5** A seat or upholstered furniture, may only be described as “leather” if both the “contact areas” and the “non contact areas” of the upholstered parts are leather (excluding buttons, piping etc. that are purely decorative in nature).

**5.6** Steering wheels, gear knobs, panels and upholstered non-contact areas of seats in car interiors or of upholstered furniture can be made of split leather and still comply with the requirements for using “Leather” as a descriptor.

**5.7** The designations “Leather Interior” or “Full Leather Interior” in an automobile shall be used where at least for seats, dashboard, panels and centre console (including gear shift skirt) meet the requirements of 5.1 to 5.6. Non-visible areas that are not covered with leather because they are intended to achieve a special function (e.g. anti-stick slip) shall not be considered for the calculation of the expected area. Also the use of special non-synthetic materials such as wood or metal for the steering wheel and the gear knob shall not be considered for the calculation of the expected area.

**5.8** The designation “Leather Seats” in an automobile shall only be used for the whole seat, comprising both contact areas and non-contact areas. The back part of rear seats shall not be considered for the calculation of the expected area.

**5.9** The designation “Leather faced seats” shall only be used for the contact areas of the seat.

**5.10** An automotive interior component - other than the seats - may only be described as “leather” if the upholstered parts are leather (ignoring buttons, piping, etc. that are purely decorative in nature).



## **6 Miscellaneous: communication on designation and description**

**6.1** Other names or adjectives may be used in conjunction with the word leather, but the material shall always comply with the definition of "leather" and should comply with the requirements specified above.

**6.2** Individual components of the vehicle interior may be designated as leather – for example "leather steering wheel" provided that the statement is accurate, according to the general principles outlined above.

**6.3** The designation "Leather" should not be used, without qualification, if leather constitutes less than 80 % of the surface area of the seat or upholstered furniture or automotive interior or automotive interior component described. Otherwise it should be designated by indicating the nature of the complementary material used – for example in the case of fabric – as "leather and fabric seats". If the alternative material comprises a greater part than leather of the surface area, the appropriate designation would be – for example in the case of fabric - "Fabric and leather seats".

## Bibliography

- [1] International glossary of leather terms (English<>French<>German<>Spanish<>Italian), 2nd, revised edition, pp.320, 1975 (reprinted with addenda incorporated, 1997)



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