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Leather — Requirements for the determination of the origin of leather production

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National foreword

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English Version

Leather - Requirements for the determination of the origin of leather production

Cuir - Exigences relatives à la détermination de
l'origine de la production du cuir

Leder - Anforderungen an die Bestimmung der
Herkunft von Leder

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European foreword

This document (EN 16484:2015) 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2016.

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Introduction

This standard has been prepared for defining the conditions for determining the origin of the leather production in conformity with the international Non-Preferential Rules of Origin and for fulfilling, where applicable, the requirements for supplying the declaration of the country of origin of the leather production.

When the origin of the leather production is declared, it is essential to make it certain that the statement is accurate. Therefore it needs to relate to objective and verifiable requirements.

This standard applies to leather only. Leather articles, such as leather bags, leather goods, leather accessories, leather footwear, leather clothes or leather clothes accessories, leather upholstered furniture, etc. are subject to their own respective rules of origin. It is not possible to determine implicitly the origin of leather used (partially or totally) from the declared origin of leather articles. Conversely, the origin of the leather used does not automatically confer the origin to the leather article.

1 Scope

This European Standard defines the requirements that are necessary to confer the origin of leather production based on the principle of the last substantial transformation according to Non-Preferential Rules of Origin.

This European Standard applies to leather only and it applies also to leather with hair. Furs are excluded.

The country of origin of raw hides and skins isn't relevant for the application of this standard.

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 15987:2015, *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 15987:2015 and the following apply.

3.1

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 will not be used without further qualification, e.g. split leather, suede leather.

[SOURCE: EN 15987:2015, 4.1.1]

3.2

raw hides or skins

fresh, refrigerated, dried, dry-salted, salted hides or skins

3.3

tanned leather

hides and skins converted to leather by a tanning process (see 3.5)

3.4

crust

leather which is tanned, fatliquored and dried, before finishing

[SOURCE: EN 15987:2015, 4.1.3]

3.5 tanning
processing of perishable raw hides and skins by the use of tanning materials into the permanent and putrescible form of leather

3.6 retanning-dyeing-fatliquoring
process that subjects an already tanned leather to a further tanning treatment to modify its properties using an agent of the same, or entirely different, type, introducing oil into the leather by drumming it with an oil-in-water emulsion, and conferring to the leather the desired colour with the appropriate dyes

3.7 finishing
broad series of surface treatments applied to leather to give it the desired look, feel or touch, such as applying pigmented or non-pigmented finishes and seasons or coatings, or simply shining the leather or removing the grain surface by buffing, etc

3.8 origin of the leather production
country where the leather was submitted to the last substantial transformation

3.9 substantial transformation
process step in the production of leather of such relevance as to confer to it significantly different properties and thus capable of imprinting an origin

3.10 company
producer of leather who wants to declare the origin of the leather production

4 Requirements for the determination of the origin of the leather production

4.1 General

In order to determine the origin of the leather production, the country where it has been submitted to the last substantial transformation needs to be ascertained.

Consequently leather at different stages of production can be considered coming from/produced in a given Country if they comply with the rules explained in 4.2, 4.3, 4.4.

4.2 Tanned leather (e.g. wet blue, wet white, vegetable tanned leather)

Starting from raw hides/skins, the substantial transformation shall be the tanning phase.

EXAMPLE The denomination will be "Tanned (or wet blue, wet white etc.) leather from Country A".

4.3 Crust (dyed or not)

The substantial transformation shall be the process step of "retanning-fatliquoring-(dyeing)".

EXAMPLE The denomination will be "Crust from Country A".

Crust from country A, shall obtain the origin of the Country B only if it is additionally submitted to the process step of "retanning-fatliquoring-(dyeing)" in country B.

4.4 Finished leathers

The origin of a finished leather shall be the country where “retanning-fatliquoring-dyeing” takes place.

If the finishing takes place in a different country than the retanning- fatliquoring-dyeing, then it shall be indicated separately.

5 Records to verify the country of origin

The origin of the leather shall be demonstrated and recorded.

The geographic-origin shall be demonstrated at least through objective documents of transaction or of production, which are capable to demonstrate where the substantial transformations have been carried out.

This documentation shall not be replaced by a company self-declaration.

Annex A (informative)

Items to be provided to determine the origin of the leather production

A.1 General

In order to determine the origin of the leather production and to communicate it in a transparent way, the company should prepare the items described in A.2, A.3, A.4, A.5.

A.2 Product identification

The company should univocally identify and list the products of which it wants the origin to be declared, according to the requirements listed in Clause 4 (for example with a product code, the name of the article, etc.).

A.3 Origin of the product

The company should demonstrate the origin of the products according to A.2, by keeping appropriate records of all the phases of substantial transformation according to the requirements stated in EN ISO 9001:2008, 7.5.3.

Examples of appropriate registrations can be: documents of process control, production orders, working cards, documents of transport, all that is an input/output registration of the working defined as substantial for the origin declaration.

A.4 Sales and commercial documentation

In case the company wants to create sales and commercial documents of the leather whose origin declaration is intended (e.g. packing list, technical sheets, product sheets), they should include the evidence of the origin of the production of the leather indication, on the basis of the items reported in A.2 and of the related destination.

In any case the origin indication shall be referred only to the articles corresponding to the requirements of this standard.

A.5 Marking and labelling

In case the company wants to mark or label its leathers, they shall be marked or labelled with the information reported in a), b), c), d), that shall be applied in a visible and durable way.

If the product is sold outside the country of origin, apart other specifications, the information reported in a), b), c) shall be provided at least in English:

- a) product identification, as reported in A.2;
- b) indication of origin, by qualifying the leather referring to the Country of the origin, according to the requirements reported in Clause 4, such as “German Leather”, “Leather from Italy” or “Leather produced in Spain”, etc.;
- c) indication of the country where the finishing occurred when different from the country where retanning-fatliquoring – dyeing have taken place;

- d) the reference to this standard;
- e) name or mark of the company.

The labelling/marketing modalities that satisfy the requirements reported above, could be chosen by the company between one or more options, such as label put on packing material or point/label directly on the leather.

In any case the origin indication shall refer only to the articles corresponding to the requirements of this standard.

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- [6] EN ISO 9001:2008, *Quality management systems — Requirements (ISO 9001:2008)*

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