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Drycleanability of leather garments

Part 1. Specification for drycleanability
and for appropriate care labels

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Aptitude au nettoyage à sec des vêtements de
cuir
Partie 1. Nettoyage à sec et étiquetage
correspondant — Spécifications

Verhalten von Lederkleidung beim
Chemischreinigen
Teil 1. Anforderungen und Pflegekennzeichen

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Foreword

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This Part of BS 7269 has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee. It is complementary to BS 6453.

Textile care labelling has, over the last 25 years, been a major factor in the incorporation of satisfactory after-care into garment design. The absence of a comparable system for leather garments has been accentuated by the wide variation in technical performance of these items, particularly regarding cleaning. It has been acknowledged that an approach different to that for textiles (as established in BS 2747) is required for leather, since these items are normally subjected to professional cleaning using a modified drycleaning process of which there are many variants.

Most leathers, whether finished on the suede side or the grain side, contain solvent-extractable lubricants which affect drape, tactile appeal and richness of colour. Drycleaning solvents may extract these oils producing a rather flat appearance unless re-oiling is carried out. However, technical developments within the leather industry to produce the required leather properties with reduced amounts of free lubricant now mean that some leathers, particularly pale shades, could be inadvertently over-oiled by cleaners, in which case reprocessing might be necessary.

To overcome these problems, research staff at the British Leather Confederation and the Fabric Care Research Association have collaborated in a joint research project funded by the two organizations and by the Department of Trade and Industry. One of the original intentions in carrying out the research work necessary for the production of this Part of BS 7269 was to arrive at a leather garment care labelling scheme that would provide the cleaner with the following information:

- (a) the solvent(s) to be used in the drycleaning process;
- (b) the degree of re-oiling required in the second bath.

The result has been the preparation of this specification which places limitations on the changes in a garment caused by drycleaning, and also specifies requirements for leather garment care labels to inform professional drycleaners (see appendix B for guidance on this). BS 7269 : Part 2 describes a method of test for assessing the drycleanability of leather garments.

The use of chlorofluorocarbons such as trichlorofluoromethane (solvent 11) and trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) is currently under review. Future legislation may prevent these solvents from being used in drycleaning. It is anticipated that this British Standard will then be revised accordingly and that different solvents will then be specified.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Specification

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1 Scope

This Part of BS 7269 specifies requirements for the drycleanability of leather garments.

It also specifies symbols to be used on leather garment care labels, which indicate firstly which drycleaning solvents are suitable and secondly the degree of re-oiling that will be necessary.

NOTE. The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 7269, the definitions given in BS 2780 apply, together with the following.

2.1 composite test specimen

Test specimen consisting of all leathers, textiles, interlinings, adhesives, adhesive tapes, buttons, binding and other components used in the garment, and in the same relative positions as in the garment.

2.2 drycleanability

Extent to which an article may be cleaned by means of immersion with agitation in organic solvents commonly used for the purpose. This process consists of cleaning, centrifugal extraction and finishing (including re-oiling where necessary to restore colour and pressing where necessary to restore shape).

3 Performance

When tested in accordance with BS 7269 : Part 2, a garment or composite test specimen shall comply with the requirements given in table 1.

NOTE. It is unlikely that a garment or composite test specimen made from leather that does not comply with BS 6453 will comply with the requirements given in table 1.

Property	Requirement after cleaning and finishing
Colour change (a) outer (b) trim (c) lining (d) panel to panel	Maximum colour change 3-4
Finish loss (a) base coat (b) top coat	No loss of material of the base coat Maximum colour change 4
Dimensional stability to drycleaning (a) outer (b) lining	Maximum linear change in any direction 3 % (shrinkage or extension)
Mechanical damage to (a) the outer (b) the trim (c) the lining (d) the stitching	No visible damage
Loss of adhesion of seams and interlining Migration of adhesive Puckering of seams	No visible loss of adhesion, migration of adhesive or puckering of seams
Change in texture, handle and surface appearance of garment	Minimal change

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Extractable oil content and allocation of star rating

Extractable oil content

The extractable oil content of each type and colour of leather shall be determined in accordance with method 4 of BS 1309. This figure shall be recorded to the nearest integer percent.

Allocation of star rating

2.1 If the leather garment contains leather of only one type and colour, a star rating shall be allocated as given in table 2.

Table 2. Allocation of star rating

Extractable oil content	Star rating
0 to 5	No star
5 to 10	One star (i.e. *)
10 to 15	Two stars (i.e. **)
Above 15	Three stars (i.e. ***)

2.2 If the leather garment contains leathers of more than one type and/or colour and the extractable oil contents of all the leathers fall in the same range as given in table 2, the appropriate star rating as given in table 2 shall be allocated.

2.3 If the leather garment contains leathers of more than one type and/or colour and the extractable oil contents of all the leathers do not fall in the same range as given in table 2, the instructions on the allocation of star rating, as given in A.2, shall be followed.

5 Content of leather garment care label

From the results obtained by testing in accordance with BS 7269 : Part 2, a leather garment care label shall be obtained by the following procedure.

- (a) Select the symbol from table 3, which indicates the dry cleaning solvent(s).
- (b) Select the appropriate star rating from table 4, which indicates the extractable oil content and the degree of re-oiling necessary.
- (c) Combine the symbols as in the example given in table 5.

6 Marking

The garment shall be labelled with the following information:

- (a) the name and/or trade mark of the manufacturer or the organization responsible for labelling the leather garment;
- (b) an appropriate leather garment care label in accordance with clause 5 of this Part of BS 7269;
- (c) the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 7269 : Part 1 : 1991¹⁾.





Marking BS 7269 : Part 1 : 1991 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by the manufacturer on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is therefore entirely the responsibility of the person making the claim. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third party certification of conformity, which may also be desirable.

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Table 3. Symbols used to indicate suitable drycleaning solvents for leather garments that do not require re-oiling with triolein


	Symbol	Interpretation
1		Articles that are suitable for drycleaning in tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene) or trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) or trichlorofluoromethane (solvent 11) using leather drycleaning procedures and that should not require any oil in the second bath
2		Articles that are suitable for drycleaning in trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) using leather drycleaning procedures and that should not require any oil in the second bath
3	 DO NOT CLEAN IN SOLVENT 113	Articles that are suitable for drycleaning in tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene) or trichlorofluoromethane (solvent 11) but not trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) using leather drycleaning procedures and that should not require any oil in the second bath
4	 DO NOT CLEAN IN SOLVENT 11	Articles that are suitable for drycleaning in tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene) or trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113), but not trichlorofluoromethane (solvent 11) using leather drycleaning procedures and which should not require any oil in the second bath

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Table 4. Use of the star rating to indicate the extractable oil content and to imply the degree of re-oiling necessary

no star	The absence of a star indicates an original extractable oil content of 0 % (m/m) and implies that the leather will require no re-oiling
one star (e. *)	One star indicates an original extractable oil content of 1 % (m/m) to 5 % (m/m) and implies that the leather will require minimal re-oiling
two stars (e. **)	Two stars indicate an original extractable oil content of 6 % (m/m) to 10 % (m/m) and imply that the leather will require moderate re-oiling
three stars (e. ***)	Three stars indicate an original extractable oil content in excess of 10 % (m/m) and imply that the leather will require a high level of re-oiling

Table 5. Example of combining the star rating of table 4 with the drycleaning solvent symbol of table 3 to produce a leather garment care label

	Leather garment suitable for drycleaning in solvents in category 1 of table 3, and containing extractable oil as given in category 3 of table 4
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NOTE. The symbols below are given for guidance only and do not apply to leather garments covered by this Part of BS 7269.

	Do not dryclean; sponge with a weak solution of a suitable mild soap or detergent.
	Do not dryclean; wash with a weak solution of a suitable mild soap or detergent.

Appendices

Appendix A. Guidance for garment manufacturers


A.1 Solvent selection

This Part of BS 7269 follows BS 2747 in that a garment which is drycleanable in tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene) is also assumed to be drycleanable in trichlorofluoromethane (solvent 11) and 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113). Table 3 allows the use of additional wording to exclude any unsuitable solvents where this assumption is unfounded.

Attention is drawn to BS 1006 : DO1, which provides a laboratory method for determining the fastness of leather to drycleaning. This method specifies the use of tetrachloroethylene but can be used satisfactorily with other drycleaning solvents. If the specimen complies with the requirements given in table 1 when tested in tetrachloroethylene, the leather can be tested using method DO1 of BS 1006 but using solvent 11 and solvent 113. If the leather meets the colourfastness requirements set out in BS 6453 when tested using

these solvents, the specimen acquires a  label.

If the results for solvent 11 and/or solvent 113 are unsatisfactory, the exclusions given in table 3 are added to the symbol. If the specimen does not meet the requirements given in table 1 when tested in tetrachloroethylene, the results for solvent 113 should be used and if the specimen is

satisfactory it should acquire a  label.

If the garment is made from two leathers and one leather is cleanable only in tetrachloroethylene and the other is cleanable only in solvent 113, it is unlikely that the garment would comply with this Part of BS 7269.

A.2 Allocation of star rating

In most cases the allocation of the star rating will be adequately covered by 4.2 and 4.3. However, if the garment contains leathers of more than one type and/or colour and the extractable oil contents of all the leathers do not fall in the same range as given in table 2, allocate a star rating as follows.

(a) If the colour of one leather only is likely to be affected by oil content (the other leathers being, for example, grain leathers), allocate a star rating corresponding to the extractable oil content of that leather.

(b) If the colour of more than one leather is likely to be affected by oil content, and the extractable oil contents of these leathers all lie in two of the ranges given in table 2 that are adjacent, allocate a star rating corresponding to the lower extractable oil content.

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(c) If the colour of more than one leather is likely to be affected by oil content, and the extractable oil contents of these leathers do not all lie in two of the ranges given in table 2 that are adjacent, allocate an average star rating.

In such cases the garment will still have to comply with the requirements given in table 1.

If (c) and to a lesser extent (b) applies, then there is a danger that the re-oiling level required for one leather to comply will be totally unsuitable for the other leather and no satisfactory compromise level of re-oiling will apply. Garments made from such combinations will fall outside the scope of this specification.

Appendix B. Guidance for drycleaners

It is anticipated that this Part of BS 7269 will be of use to the drycleaner in the following respects.

(a) The letter in the symbol on the leather garment care label, together with the wording beneath the symbol (if any), will give him an indication as to which drycleaning solvents are suitable.

(b) The star rating on the leather garment care label will give him guidance as to the extent of re-oiling that is required.

(c) Having established his particular procedure to be satisfactory for the drycleaning of various leather garments labelled with a particular star rating, he can be confident that other leather garments similarly marked will give similar results when similarly treated. As an example, if his machine had a particularly powerful centrifugal action, the drycleaner might find that he obtained better results using a greater concentration of oil in solvent than that suggested by table 6. In this case, he could adopt this greater concentration as his normal practice when drycleaning other goods similarly marked.

Table 6. Concentration of triolein in solvent used in determining if a leather garment is drycleanable, and associated star rating

Star rating	Concentration of triolein in drycleaning solvent
	g/L
No star	0
One star (i.e. *)	50
Two star (i.e. **)	100
Three star (i.e. ***)	150