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Government of India  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
Department of Commerce  
Directorate General of Foreign Trade  
Udyog Bhavan  
New Delhi

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Public Notice No.15/2015-2020**

**Subject: Export of Finished Leather - Revised Leather Norms.**

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No 22 of 1992) read with Para 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby specifies, for the purpose of the entry "Finished Leather all kinds" appearing at *Serial No: 176, Chapter 41, Schedule 2 – Export Policy, of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20*, that the items mentioned in column 2 of the table hereunder shall constitute "Finished Leather" and the same may be exported without a license but subject to the terms and conditions specified against each item in column 3 of the table hereunder."

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Description of item</b>	<b>Manufacturing Norms Conditions.</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>3.</b>
<b>I</b>	Leathers with finishing coat (All substrates – Goat and Sheep skins and Bovine hides/sides calf skins including splits)	a. Tanning b. Dyeing(optional) c. Fatliquoring d. Finishing coat
<b>II</b>	Suede Leathers (All substrates including splits)	a. Tanning b. <b>Dyeing in light/pastel/medium/dark shades (in case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic technique or spectrophotometric technique)</b> c. Fatliquoring d. Buffing to produce suede nap e. Shaving/snuffing of the grain along the backbone 2 inches on either side in the case of goat and sheep skins and in the case of bovine hides/sides and calf skins all over the grain side





III	Nubuck Leathers (All substrates including butts and bends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing in light/pastel/medium/dark shades (in case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic technique or spectrophotometric technique)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Buffing on the grain to produce nap with writing effect (or) Buffing on the grain and presence of oil in the case of oil nubuck leather(or) <b>Buffing on the grain and presence of wax in the case of waxy nubuck leather.</b></li> </ul>
IV	Bovine hides/sides based Lining Leathers, <b>Goat and Sheep based Lining Leathers</b>	<p><b>Thickness upto 1.0 mm for Bovine lining leathers and 0.8 mm for Goat &amp; Sheep lining leathers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. <b>Dyeing in light/pastel/medium/dark shades (in the case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic technique or spectrophotometric technique)</b></li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> </ul>
V	Gloving leathers (All substrates):	<p>Thickness should be less than or equal to 1.0 mm. <b>Run should be minimum of 15% in the case of wax coat. In case wax coat is absent, run shall not be lesser than 25%.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing (optional)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Wax coat (optional)</li> </ul>
VI	Burnishable Leathers (All substrates including butts and bends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing in light/pastel/medium/dark shades (in case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic technique or spectrophotometric technique)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Wax coat</li> <li>e. Burnishable effect on rubbing (Minimum CIEAL value of <b>-3.0 on 10 dry rubbing</b> on SATRA Fastness tester or any other fastness tester as measured on a Reflectance spectrophotometer)</li> </ul>

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<b>VII</b>	Pull Up Leather – Wax/Oil (All substrates including butts and bends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing in light/pastel/medium/dark shades(in case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic technique or spectrophotometric technique)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Wax coat (or) Oilcoat</li> <li>e. Pull up effect (Minimum CIE <math>\Delta L</math> value of +3.0 as measured on a reflectance spectrophotometer)</li> </ul>
<b>VIII</b>	Heavy Leathers including sole leather, harness and belting leathers (Bovine hides/sides including butts and bends)	<p>Heavy substance with thickness of 3.0 mm or more and with minimum of apparent density 0.9 gm/cc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Oiling/stuffing</li> <li>c. Rolling/Plating</li> </ul>
<b>IX</b>	Hair/wool on leathers (All substrates including rabbit skins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing(optional)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Wool/hair combing</li> </ul>
<b>X</b>	Laminated Leathers (All substrates including splits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. Dyeing(optional)</li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. <b>Application of foil/film/lamination on grain or flesh side of the leathers.</b></li> </ul>
<b>XI</b>	Chamois Leathers (All substrates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Aldehyde and oil combination tanning</li> <li>b. Buffing to produce suede nap</li> <li>c. Complete shaving/snuffing of the grain</li> </ul>
<b>XII</b>	Shrunken Grain/Washed leathers (All substrates).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. <b>Dyeing (in the case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic or spectrophotometric technique)</b></li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. <b>Wax coat (or) oil coat.</b> Should have pronounced change in the grain pattern/texture of grain</li> </ul>
<b>XIII</b>	Wax/Oil coated leathers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tanning</li> <li>b. <b>Dyeing (in the case of doubt, the presence of dye to be ascertained by chromatographic or spectrophotometric technique)</b></li> <li>c. Fatliquoring</li> <li>d. Wax coat (or) Oil Coat</li> </ul>

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<b>XIV</b>	<b>3D Effect, Embossed leathers, Scaling, Perforated leathers etc;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Tanning</b></li> <li>b. <b>Dyeing (optional)</b></li> <li>c. <b>Fatliquoring</b></li> <li>d. <b>Effect should be uniform, pronounced and shall be seen throughout the leather grain or flesh surface.</b></li> </ul>
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**NOTE:** Any new type of finished leather not covered under the above categories shall be permitted for export, subject to testing and certification by Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI).

**DEFINITIONS OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

**Tanning** -Tanning with one or more than one kind of tanning agent, such as mineral tanning and vegetable tanning and/or syntan tanning and/or resin tanning and/or aldehyde tanning, oil tanning in any sequence and or any new type of tanning.

**Dyeing** – Treating the leather with a solution of dye/s to impart a colour . In case of doubt the presence of dye should be ascertained by extracting dye from leather using suitable solvent mixture and by running thin layer chromatography (TLC)

**NOTE: 1:- Testing for the presence of dye:**

***By Chromatographic technique:***

Organic layer separated from Butanol, acetic acid and water mixture taken in the ratio 4:1:5, using a separating funnel is taken as the eluting solvent for TLC analysis. Dye is extracted from the leather using dichloromethane and methanol (1: 1) mixture. The cut pieces of leathers are heated in a water bath with the solvent mixture for few minutes. The extracted dye is kept as a spot on the TLC paper and the strip is kept in the eluting solvent such that the dye spot lies above the solvent level. The presence of the dye is confirmed by its movement to a considerable distance and from the formation of a dye curve or peak on the TLC paper.

***By Spectrophotometric technique :***

Known sample of leather is taken for dye extraction by suitable solvent mixture. Extracted solution is filtered and then 2 ml of the same is taken in cuvette and run through the UV Visible Spectrophotometer. Sample is run for set conditions of equipment and presence of dye spectrum is noted in visible region of wavelength (400 to 800 nm) to confirm the presence of dye in leather sample.

**Fatliquoring** – Treating the leather with oil and/or fat, emulsified in water for rendering the leather soft



**Finishing Coat** – Finishing coat shall contain a film forming material/ binder in combination with colorants such as pigments or dyes or a combination of both. The film forming material/binder shall comprise materials singly or in combination such as proteins or synthetic acrylic or polyurethane, vinyls lacquers or lacquer emulsions. If necessary, microscopic examination of the surface at minimum 100 times magnification shall be carried out to detect the finishing coat.

**NOTE 2: - Microscopic examination for finish coat:**

Binocular stereoscopic microscope with (two paired) objectives capable of viewing the objects at a total magnification of 100X will be required. Stereoscopic microscope gives a three dimensional view of the object.

Leather sample to be examined is placed on the stage of the microscope with the grain facing the objectives and then the surface is focused. Two or three places in each of the five locations namely butt, belly (one each side of the back bone line) and neck or shoulder examined.

To the naked eye, the grain surface may appear to be plain, but when focused under microscope, innumerable depressions can be seen on the surface. These depressions are due to cleavages lines and hair pores. If finish coat is sprayed on the grain surface, it will be present throughout, including depressed areas and both the depressed and other areas will produce the same type of reflection which is clearly visible under the microscope.

**Buffing** – An operation to produce a clean flesh surface to produce nap on leather by the action of emery wheel or a buffing machine.

**Shaving** – A mechanical operation of reducing the substance of leather to uniform thickness by scrapping off layers from flesh or grain side

**Snuffing** – The process of buffing the grain side of leather usually done by buffing machine, with visible evidence of removal of grain

**Oiling** – The operation of rubbing oil on the grain side of wet or samed leather with the object of making the leather soft andpliable; in the case of vegetable tanned leather also to protect the color of tannage from darkening by oxidation.

**Wax coat** – Wax particulate matter should be seen under Microscope (100x) after the application of xylene on the grain surface.

**NOTE 3:-Microscopic examination of wax coat:**

A small drop of xylene is placed on the surface of the leather. The surface is scrapped gently using a glass rod. Leather is left for 2-3 minutes. The dried leather surface is observed under microscope for the presence of wax crystals on the surface.

**Burnishable Effect** – Rubbing on grain surface of leather should show a distinct gloss with a darkening of the shade giving rise to a burnishing effect.



Minimum CIE  $\Delta L$  value of - 3.0 on 10 dry rubbing on SATRA or any other fastness tester.

**Pull up Effect** – Leather shall produce a distinct pull-up effect showing a contrast light color from the base minimum CIE  $\Delta L$  value of +3 as measured by the reflectance spectrophotometer.

**Wool Combing**- The operation through which wool entanglements are released.

**Application of foil/film** – Acrylic/PVC/PU foil or film

**Rolling** – The operation of rolling the heavy leathers like sole leather using a heavy roller with rolling machine.

### **3D EFFECT**

Three-dimensional effect displays leather in a form that appears to be physically present with a designated structure. Essentially, it allows items that appeared flat to the human eye to be display in a form that allows for various dimensions to be represented.


### **SCALING / PERFORATED LEATHERS**

Group of small holes, cuts, or deep effects or impressions or designs imparted on the leather.

### **EMBOSSED LEATHER**

Embossing gives a creative & decorative look to leather by stamping using heat and high pressure to create a pattern or design in the hide/skin. The pattern or design varieties are ranging from milled grain, hair cell, alligator, crocodile, ostrich, flowers, geometric, etc.

**Effect of Public Notice:** Certain additions/amendments have been made in the entry “Finished Leather all kinds” appearing at Serial No: 176, Chapter 41, Schedule 2 – Export Policy, of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 in the light of several changes that have taken place in the past 7-8 years in the tanning technology and new types of finished leather being produced now.

  
04/09/2020  
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